

6. Strategically plan nonviolent campaigns targeting both public and private actors for maximum effectiveness.

## OUR STRUCTURE

This course aims to explore the concept of nonviolent action by analyzing various campaigns and movements. Our goal is to establish a meaningful dialogue that bridges the principles of nonviolence, the strategies employed by different campaigns, and the specific tactics activists use to achieve their objectives. Throughout this process, we will not only identify best practices but also examine failures and dilemmas within the nonviolent movement.

Within this framework, two assignments are designed to explore both the theoretical and practical dimensions of nonviolent action. The first is an individual essay that reflects on a specific aspect of a past nonviolent movement, applying the theoretical frameworks discussed in the course. The second is a group-based activity that involves analyzing an ongoing social movement and providing key recommendations to enhance its impact using principles and strategies of nonviolent action. Both assignments will be graded on a 20-point scale and accompanied by evaluative comment.

The assessment of both assignments, along with active participation in class, will be structured as follows: working group assignment (45%), individual essay (45%) and in-class participation (10%).

## OUR METHOD

The course adopts a Flipped Classroom model using the virtual education platform Moodle. Students will have access to educational materials, including reading materials, videos and podcasts. The virtual space also includes forums for sharing reflections, addressing doubts, or making any comments related to the course.

In-class teaching sessions will serve as interactive forums to reflect on and discuss the content outlined in the reading materials and pre-recorded videos. The instructor will facilitate discussions, introduce new concepts, provide best practices and real examples, and propose experiential activities to enhance the learning experience. In addition, special guests will participate in certain lectures to share their experiences in engaging with nonviolent campaigns. These sessions will provide unique opportunities to engage in dialogue with activists from around the globe who are fighting against injustice.

## OUR SCHEDULE

### Unit 1: The Struggles for Self-Determination

#### Key thematic topics

- Framing Nonviolence: Exploring Gandhian Principles, Origins, and Dilemmas.
- Identity, Violence and Cultural Resistance in Decolonial Struggles.
- [Case studies] The Indian Independence Movement(1919-1940) and the Palestinian Popular Struggle since 1930
- [Tool] The Constructive Program

#### Core readings:

- Mahatma Gandhi. Letter to Shankarlal (1917).
- Mahatma Gandhi. All Men Are Brothers, Chapter 4. (1980).
- Mathai, M. P. What Is Swaraj? (1999).
- Ali Nijmeh. *Lifestyle of Resistance: Palestinian Sumud in Israel as a Form of Transformative Resistance* (2018).

- Mary Elizabeth King. *Palestine: Nonviolent Resistance in the Struggle for Statehood, 1920s–2012* (2013).
- Johansson, Anna & Vinthagen, Stellan. *Dimensions of Everyday Resistance: An Analytical Framework* (2014).

## **Unit 2: Countering Segregation and Institutional Racism**

### Key thematic topics

- Strategic nonviolence action: Community organizing, mass training and nonviolent discipline.
- [Case studies] The U.S. Civil Rights Movement (1954) and the Black Lives Matter (2013).
- [Tool] Backfire and the Paradox of repression

### Core readings:

- Martin Luther King “Letter from Birmingham’s Jail” (1963).
- International Center for Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC). A force more powerful (video). Case of Nashville
- Stephan, Maria J., and Erica Chenoweth. “Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict.” (2008)
- Interview with Angela Davis on Violence (1972).
- Cornell, Drucilla & Seely, Drew S., *Setting Struggle in Motion: From “Non-Violence” to Revolutionary Anti-Violence* (2022).
- Brian Martin, *From Political Jiu-Jitsu to the Backfire Dynamic: How Repression Can Promote Mobilization* (2015).

## **Unit 3: Overthrowing Dictators while Resisting Repression**

### Key thematic topics

- Movement Building under Authoritarian Regimes
- [Case study] The Colour revolutions: Serbian (1998), Georgia (2003) and Ukraine (2003). The Belarusian Democracy Movement (2020) and the Anti-war movement in Russia (2022)
- [Tool] Disruptive and dilemma actions

### Core readings:

- Marovic, Ivan. “In Defense of Otpor.” Open Democracy, December 6, 2013.
- Adams, Laura, Natalia Forrat, and Zack Medow. “How civic mobilizations grow in authoritarian contexts”. Freedom House (2022).
- Piven, Francis Fox. “Why Protesters Must ‘Defend Their Ability to Exercise Disruptive Power” (2020).
- Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action* (1973) [excerpts].
- Excerpts from Saul Alinsky “Treaty for Radicals” (1971).

## **Unit 4 : Gender dimensions in Nonviolent Movements**

### Key thematic topics:

- Nonviolence as a Democratizing action: the politics of care and communities of practice. Gaining the battle of the public opinion
- [Case study] The Arab Springs (2010) and the Iranian women-led campaign “We are all Mahsa” (2022)
- [Tool] Pillars of power

### Core readings:

- Mozn Hassan & Helen Rizzo, *The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Epidemic Meets the COVID-19 Pandemic: Survivors' and Advocates' Narratives in Egypt* (2022).
- Manal Al-Natour, *The Role of Women in the Egyptian Revolution of 25 January 2011* (2013).
- Zeineb Touati & Sami Zlitni, *Social Networks and Women's Rights Activism in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia* (2013).
- Haid Haid, *Resisting Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Syria)* (2017).
- Leila Zand, *From the Iranian Revolution to "We Are All Mahsa": Iran's Women at the Forefront of Change* (2022, radio interview).

## **Unit 5: Building Resilient Communities under War**

### Key thematic topics

- Developing infrastructure Systems for Protection, Resilience, and Deterrence. Examining the relationship between civil resistance, protection groups, and armed forces.
- [Case study] Ukrainian civil resistance during the full-scale invasion (2022),
- [Tool] Civil Defense Systems

### Core readings:

- Daza, Felip. "Ukrainian Nonviolent Civil Resistance in the Face of War" International Institute for Nonviolence (NOVACT) (2022).
- Bartkowski, Maciej. *Nonviolent Civilian Defense to Counter Russian Hybrid Warfare* (2015), Johns Hopkins University, Center for Advanced Governmental Studies.
- Gene Sharp. *Civilian-Based Defense: A Post-Military Weapons System* (1990), Princeton University Press.
- Hallward, Maia; Masullo, Juan; & Mouly, Cécile, *Civil Resistance in Armed Conflict: Leveraging Nonviolent Action to Navigate War, Oppose Violence and Confront Oppression* (2017)

## **Unit 6: Corporate Power and Apartheid Divestment Movements**

### Key thematic topics:

- Advocacy to multinational corporations by identifying pressure points. Strategies and challenges of climate justice campaigns.
- [Case study] The South African Anti-apartheid movement (1960), Boycott Divestment Sanctions against Israel (2005), Anti-fossil fuel movements (2010).
- [Tool] Disruption of Supply and investment chains

### Core readings:

- Omar Barghouti. *BDS: Nonviolent, Globalized Palestinian Resistance to Israel's Settler Colonialism and Apartheid* (2021), *Journal of Palestine Studies*.
- Stephen Zunes. *The Role of Non-Violent Action in the Downfall of Apartheid* (1999).
- Muñoz-Saavedra, Judith; Ascencio Cortés, María Soledad; & Madrid Ross, Zoila. *Berta Cáceres, Agency and Resistance* (2023).
- Roger Hallam. *Interview: Extinction Rebellion Founder Speaks*.

**\*\*Assignment #1: Individual essays due to Friday, March 13th 23:59h \*\***

**\*\*\*Assignment #2: Working group case study's analysis are due April 24th at 23:59h\*\***

