

STMM 593 NONVIOLENT ENGAGEMENT TOWARD ECO-JUSTICE

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Summer 2009
July 6-9
5:45 – 8:35 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to train persons for nonviolent presence within the world and strategic engagement with the world's wounds in ways that promote justice, peace, and the flourishing of all creation. We will explore practices and processes that nurture nonviolent postures toward oneself, within relationships, and toward social systems and structures. This course will culminate in embodying such nonviolent postures in relation to specific social wounds and issues.

COURSE TEXTS

Walter Wink *The Powers that Be* (required)
Laura Slattery, et.al. *Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living* (suggested)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

-Active Participation: Each person is asked to participate fully and intentionally with the course. Such participation should include: 1) attendance at class sessions, 2) deliberate and reflective engagement with the reading resources, 3) verbal and non-verbal participation in class sessions, 4) intentional involvement in class activities.

-Pre-Assignment (due at the beginning of class the first day): Each participant is asked to read Walter Wink's *The Powers that Be* then write a 5 page paper applying core concepts of the reading to a social or ecological concern of the student's choosing. The paper should address the following areas:

1)The Identified Social Concern: Describe the specific wound that is being address. The wound should be one for which the student has some degree of passion, and it should have a specific contextual location. For example, the wound or concern would not be discrimination against gay persons in general or cruelty toward animals in general, but discrimination against gay persons in the Cal-Pac Conference of the United Methodist Church, or cruelty toward beef in the northwestern meat industry.

2) Social Analysis: Analyze the social concern through identifying the persons, social structures, domination systems, and powers (using Wink's categories) that allow and perpetuate this concern's existence.

3) Alternative Vision: Articulate a vision, in dialogue with Wink's understanding of an alternative social order rooted in the teachings of Jesus, that describes the values and character of a world in which this concern is healed and/or redeemed.

4) Redemptive Responses: Articulate initial ideas about possible redemptive responses to this concern. These responses should be informed by nonviolent principles that Wink develops and should engage the social concern in strategic ways that promote healing, awareness, and/or justice.

5) Enemies: Describe the type of persons who would be your 'enemy' in Wink's sense of the term, i.e. persons who push your buttons or embody perspectives radically difficult for you to stomach, then reflect on how Wink's suggestions might prepare you to engage these persons from a posture that embodies the vision which you are promoting.

-Post-Assignment: The post-assignment, due two weeks after the course's conclusion, is an expanded version of the pre-assignment paper. The paper should be expanded (about 10 pages) with additional insights derived from the actual course. In addition, the post-assignment paper should include one additional section:

6) Post-Action Reflection: Each participant is asked to take part in some form of social action that redemptively responds to the chosen concern. In the post-action reflection section 1) describe what action was taken, 2) how the action embodies principles and practices informed by this course, 3) what next steps would you consider appropriate in healing this concern, and 4) what you learned through the process about yourself and social transformation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

July 6 An Introduction to the Vision and Principles of Nonviolence

Reading:

Walter Wink *The Powers that Be* ch. 3

Laura Slattery *Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living* chs. 1-4

July 7 Nonviolence toward One Self

Reading:

Walter Wink *The Powers that Be* chs. 5-9

July 8 Nonviolence within Interpersonal Relationships

Reading:

Walter Wink *The Powers that Be* ch. 8

Laura Slattery *Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living* chs. 5

July 9 Nonviolence toward Social Systems and Powers

Reading:

Walter Wink *The Powers that Be* ch. 1-2

Laura Slattery *Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living* Parts II and III