American University

School of International Service

SIS Skills Institute

April 11th and 12th, 2015

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THE CHALLENGE OF NONVIOLENT ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The regional and global impact of political, religious and cultural movements in the Middle East will be addressed in detail. The Arab Spring is highly regarded as a nonviolent movement in various Arab countries, some of which gravitated towards military confrontation and violence. We will examine the influential reasons for the changing dynamics of the movement across the region. We will analyze how nonviolent action engages the individual, family, community and the entire population in the quest to achieve basic human rights and freedom. We will witness how nonviolence in movements can forge greater understanding between the East and the West. We will culminate our program with a focus on religion and a case study of the Palestinian Intifada.

List Objectives:

To enhance understanding of the theory of nonviolence and learn about various methods;

To learn of historical leaders and current leaders implementing nonviolent action;

To obtain reference materials and specific information regarding education and training in nonviolence;

To comprehend the psychological advantages of nonviolent methods;

To recognize nonviolent action groups and connect with these organizations;
Course Expectations:

This class will meet over two days April 11 and 12, 2015 as an intensive skill session. Before the class, students will be required to complete the reading assignment noted in this syllabus. It is imperative for successful participation to complete the assigned reading and actively participate in class discussions and exercises. **I expect all written assignments to reflect graduate-level research and analysis.**

Attendance: You must be present the entire two days to pass this course.

Course Completion: In keeping with departmental policy, I will only give incomplete grades in cases of personal or immediate family illness.

Integrity: I expect integrity of every student in all academic work. You will be strictly held to the Honor Code of American University. If you have not done so, please familiarize with the Honor Code.

Class Policies and Procedures: Students are responsible for full participation in class and for completing your final assignments on time. Students who do not follow these guidelines and procedures will not pass the course.

Assignments and Grading: Students completing the IPCR Skills Institutes will receive a pass or fail grade. There is no letter-grade option. To complete all requirements for the skills institute, a student must read the required reading, actively participate in each session, attend the entire two days of the institute and write a 4-5 page reflective paper about addressing one case study of Nonviolent movement preference is for current events and concepts learned during the institute, demonstrating analytically what has been learned.

Readings: The required reading must be completed before the beginning of the class.

1- A Quiet Revolution: The First Palestinian Intifada and Nonviolent Resistance
   
   Mary Elizabeth King

2- Strategic Nonviolent Conflict: The Dynamics of people Power in the Twentieth Century
   
   Ackerman, Peter and Christopher Kruegler (will be provided)

3- Why Civil Resistance Works
   
   Erica Chenoweth & Maria J. Stephan

4- How Freedom is Won, from Civic Resistance to Durable Democracy
   
   Adrian Karatnycky and Peter Ackerman (will be mailed to all students)
Course Outline

Friday, April 10, 2015

8:30 – 10:00 Welcome and Introductions
   - Participants Introduction
   - Course Overview
   - Agenda Overview

9:30 – 9:40 Break

9:40 – 11:00 Politics of the Middle East

11:00 – 12:30 Religion and Culture of the Middle East

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:30 The Arab Spring

3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 - 4:50 Nonviolence Principles and Application

5:50 – 5:00 Summary of the Day and discussion for Saturday

Saturday, April 11, 2015

8:00 – 9:30 Methods of Nonviolence
   - Learning how to work with violent youth
   - How to handle domestic situation in conflict
   - Skills in nonviolent protest
   - Civil disobedience

9:30 – 9:40 Break

9:40 – 11:00 How Freedom is Wone: From Civil Resistance to Durable Democracy

11:00 – 12:30 Street Activism: Taking Risks and Preparing Oneself
12:30 – 1:30   Lunch
1:30 – 3:30   The Palestinian Intifada (uprising)
3:30 - 3:45   Break
3:45 - 5:00   Q & A   Evaluation