This course will explore quests for social transformation through the methodology of nonviolence as exemplified in the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, and Cesar Chavez. Critical to the course will be an emphasis on the connection between spirituality and social action. What were the influences that shaped the zeitgeist of the times in which they lived? How were strategies determined and employed? What is essential to an effective nonviolent campaign? What were the faith foundations of these extraordinary leaders? What were their relationships to their communities? How did they manage to keep their resolve in times of disappointment? These are some of the questions the course will explore.

**Learning Outcomes**
The student will:
1) better understand contexts for ministry/social transformation
2) develop greater appreciation for personality as an agent of change
3) comprehend ways commonplace indignities can be woven into tapestries of freedom
4) become familiar with the dynamics between leadership and community
5) comprehend the sacredness of the work of social transformation
6) learn how to develop effective strategies of social transformation
7) get a glimpse of how to sustain the self during times of disappointment and failure

**Learning Activities**
1) Discussion/mini lecture
2) Sharing of written reflections
3) Experiential engagement
4) Audio/visual presentations
5) Guest presentations

**Requirements**
1) Weekly reflection papers (2-3) pages
2) Weekly news article dealing with spirituality, violence/nonviolence, social transformation/social degeneration
3) Participation in class discussions
4) Final paper (5-7 pages) utilizing the legacies of Gandhi, King, Day, and Chavez to posit how you plan to serve as religious leader to create just sustainable communities through countering oppressions

**Class Attendance**
The student may be asked to withdraw from the course after two unexcused absences.
**Required Reading**

- ISBN 1-57075-458-6   $24.00

Day, Dorothy, *Loaves and Fishes* (Orbis Books)
- ISBN 1-57075-156-0   $20.00

- ISBN 9781461180289   $8.99

- ISBN 1-4000-3050-1   $15.00

Thoreau, Henry David, *On Civil Disobedience* (Applewood Books)

Washington, James, *A Testament of Hope* (HarperSanFrancisco)

**Class Schedule**

February 4
What brought you to this place? Why are you here? This is a session for becoming acquainted through matters of the head and heart.

February 11
What brought you to this place? Why are you here? This is a session for becoming acquainted through matters of the head and heart.

February 18
Film: Gandhi

February 25
Gandhi
Reading Assignment: *The Essential Gandhi*, Part Two: The Mahatma, pp. 99 -- 172

March 4
Gandhi

March 11
Dorothy Day
Beginnings Are Always Exciting; Poverty and Precarity
*Loaves and Fishes*, pp. 3-92

March 18
Those Who Work Together; Things That Happen; Love in Practice
Loaves and Fishes, pp. 93-end
Guest: J. C. Orton – Dorothy Day House of Hospitality

**March 24-28**
**READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

**April 1**
Film: The Fight in The Fields
A Vision of Liberation, Homespun Religion, Human Dignity

**April 8**
*The Virtues of La Causa*, The Truth of Nonviolence, Simple Deeds for Justice
Reading Assignment: *The Moral Vision of Cesar Chavez*, pp. 91-170

**April 15**
Prologue to the Civil Rights Movement
Reading Assignment: *The Souls of Black Folk*, first three chapters plus the chapter, The Passing of the First Born. You select at least four additional chapters

**April 22**
Stride Toward Freedom; Religious Nonviolence
*A Testament of Hope*: pp. 417-490; 5-63

**April 29**
The Strength to Love; Why We Can’t Wait; Letter from Birmingham Jail
Reading Assignment: *A Testament of Hope*: pp. 491-554, 289-302;

**May 6**
Showdown for Nonviolence; Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community; A Testament of Hope, The Trumpet of Conscience
*A Testament of Hope*: pp. 64-72; 555-653

**May 13**
Documentary Film: At the River I Stand
A Time to Break Silence; Where Do We Go From Here? A Christmas Sermon on Peace; The Drum Major Instinct; Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution; The Trumpet of Conscience: A Testament of Hope I See the Promised Land
Reading Assignment: *A Testament of Hope*, pp. 231-278; 313-328; 279-286

**May 20**
Sharing of final papers