

VIOLENCE, FAST AND SLOW

Summer 2017 | Johns Hopkins University | MW, 1 p.m. | J. Mohorčič (jmohorc1@jhu.edu)

Is poverty a form of violence? What about lead contamination in drinking water? How about rising sea levels? Do abrupt forms of violence supervene on slower forms? How do cognitive biases play into violence? Can political struggles around violence be fast and slow? Should movements for social and economic justice practice nonviolence or employ violence? In this class, we read about violence, fast and slow.

You will also conduct a project in which you diagnose and propose treatment for a slow or fast violence.

Requirements

Discussion questions	25%	(send in four discussion questions)
Participation	25%	(do the reading, show up, put your phone away, be engaged)
Final presentation	20%	(five minute presentation on the last day of class)
Final reflection paper	30%	(400 words, due after last class)

Discussion questions

Before class, please email me a question about the readings. These questions are meant to provoke discussion and to demonstrate that you've engaged with the readings. Questions are due at 10 a.m. the morning before class.

You have to send in **four** questions over the course of the class—so, send in a question before four out of nine classes.

Final reflection paper

In 400 words, this paper identifies a *concrete* problem related to or discussed in the course readings, and proposes a *concrete* solution for this problem. The more specific the problem and its solution, the better. Due 24 hours after the end of the last class.

Roadmap

Section I: Thinking and slow violence

May 31

Kahneman – *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011, excerpts, TBD)

Rob Nixon – *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011), pp. 1 - 20

June 5

Kahneman – *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011, excerpts, TBD)

Rob Nixon – *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011), pp. 21 - 45

June 7

Kahneman – *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011, excerpts, TBD)

Rob Nixon – *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011), pp. 45 - 67

June 12

Kahneman – *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011, excerpts, TBD)

Rob Nixon – *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011), pp. 263 - 282

June 14

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo - “The Economic Lives of the Poor” (2013)
<http://economics.mit.edu/files/530>

Section II: Violence or nonviolence?

June 19

Malcolm Harris – “The Fascist Bogeyman” (2016, <https://medium.com/@BigMeanInternet/the-fascist-bogeyman-137b8c8b4c0e#.7u8penqmb>)

First half of Chenoweth, E., & Stephan, M. J. – “Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict” (2008)

http://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/IS3301_pp007-044_Stephan_Chenoweth.pdf

June 21

P. Gelderloos -- *How nonviolence protects the state* (selections, TBD)

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/peter-gelderloos-how-nonviolence-protects-the-state.pdf>

Second half of Chenoweth, E., & Stephan, M. J. – “Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict” (2008)

http://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/IS3301_pp007-044_Stephan_Chenoweth.pdf

June 26

P. Gelderloos -- *How nonviolence protects the state* (selections, TBD)

<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/peter-gelderloos-how-nonviolence-protects-the-state.pdf>

June 28

TBD: Final tying-it-together reading/other non-nonviolence reading, e.g. Ciccariello-Maher]

Presentations