There are deep connections between the concepts of violence and the distinctive kind of value we suppose human beings to have: a dignity that grounds basic human rights. We will examine these connections from philosophical, historical, psychological, and sociological perspectives.

Books ordered through Yale Bookstore


Recommended, but not required: Stephen Darwall, *The Second-Person Standpoint: Morality, Respect, and Accountability*

Schedule of readings:

September 4  Introduction

September 11  Newton Garver, “What Violence Is” (V2)
*Oxford English Dictionary* entry on ‘violence’ (V2)
Robert Paul Wolff, “On Violence” (V2)
John Harris, “The Marxist Conception of Violence” (V2)
Joel Feinberg, “The Nature and Value of Rights” (V2)
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. ii and iv (V2)

September 18  Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, sect. ii
Christine Korsgaard, “Creating the Kingdom of Ends” (V2)

Simone Weil, “The Iliad or the Poem of Force” (V2)
Martin Buber, *I and Thou*, selections (V2)
P. F. Strawson, “Freedom and Resentment” (V2)

October 2  Stephen Darwall, *The Second-Person Standpoint*, chs. 1-3 (V2)
Stephen Darwall, “Respect as Honor and as Accountability” (V2)

October 9  Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, 54-122
Jean-Paul Sartre, *Anti-Semite and Jew* ( Schocken 1995), selections (V2)
W. E. B. DuBois, *Souls of Black Folks*, selections (V2)

October 16  Randall Collins, *Violence: a Micro-sociological Study*, 1-104
Students taking the course will write 3 (2-3 page) response papers, sent electronically by 5 pm the Monday preceding the seminar—roughly ¼ of the class will have response papers due in any given week.

Students will also write a 15-20 page essay on a topic of their choosing relevant to the class, which will be due on December 12 at 5 pm (sent electronically). Students should clear their topics with me by November 13 at 5 pm.