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Minor in Nonviolence

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The Study of Nonviolence

Why does nonviolence require more courage than violence?

How, when you are losing your cool, can you maintain control and self-discipline?

How was Gandhi able to predict the nonviolent civil rights movement in the U.S. before Martin Luther King Jr. was 10 years old?

Why do nations persist in using violence as policy despite thousands of years of evidence that nonviolence works more effectively?

These questions and many others represent the core of the program in nonviolence at St. Bonaventure University, one of the longest-standing peace studies programs in the world. The program offers more courses in nonviolence than any other program in the United States, and is unique among the 350 other peace studies programs in the country because of its emphasis on nonviolence as a way of life and not just a strategy for gaining success.

Curriculum

Students wishing to complete a minor in nonviolence must complete six courses:

- Introduction to Nonviolence and Conflict Resolution
- Violence: Its Causes and Effects;
- Any 200-level nonviolence course;
- The Philosophy of Nonviolence; and
- any other two courses from more than 30 options. Visit www.sbu.edu/nonviolence for more information.

Students interested in nonviolence may design their own courses of study in nonviolence as an interdisciplinary major. They may also pursue a minor in nonviolence through an already-approved course of study.

About the Director

Dr. Barry L. Gan is currently executive director of Concerned Philosophers for Peace, a North-American association of philosophers that has been in existence since 1981. He served for twenty-five years as the editor of *The Acorn: Journal of the Gandhi-King Society*, and served (1) for two years as co-editor of *Peace and Change: A Journal of Peace Research*, Journal of the Peace History Society and the Peace and Justice Studies Association, and (2) for two years as program committee chair of the oldest and largest interfaith peace group in the United States, the Fellowship of Reconciliation.



A professor of philosophy, Dr. Gan has taught at St. Bonaventure University for the past 32 years since receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy from the University of Rochester in 1981 and 1984, respectively. Prior to that, he taught high school and junior high school English for six years.