

**NIALL O'BRIEN CENTER**  
for Active Nonviolence, Reconciliation and  
Community Futures

and the  
**PEACE AGENTS**



**CERTIFICATE COURSE**  
IN  
**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT, CRISIS  
PREVENTION AND POLITICAL  
PARTICIPATION**  
- CCP -

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## 1. Introduction

*If you want peace, work for justice.* – Pope Paul VI.

The certificate course got its inspiration from the Peace and Development Educators Program of the Niall O'Brien Center (NOBC), specifically from the course on political ideologies. Participants from various communities expressed their disappointment on political decision-makers concerning human rights violations, misuse of power, corruption, and injustice against the poor. On the other hand participants perceived their own role in politics as meaningless and shown fear to take responsibility.

The imbalance between people's awareness of structural violence and their feeling of inability in facing these problems constructively led either into the paralysis of personal involvement or armed struggle.

This motivated the NOBC to design a training course on political awareness and participation. The course introduces participants to the mechanisms and dynamics of legislative, executive and judicative processes. The students get to know the roles and responsibilities of decision makers and the powers behind them. This political empowerment leads to active citizenship and to people's participation in democratic governance; political people assert their right and duty to make government more responsive, and eventually more representative.

As a reaction to the ongoing unstable situation in the country, the course equips participants with skills in crisis prevention, conflict intervention and transformation.

Graduates of this course might serve as architects of just peace, either as political 'watchdog' (human rights workers, journalists, peace agents) or as conscious, critical, creative and compassionate politicians.



## 2. Course Contents

The certificate course consists of three basic and twelve major subjects. All subjects contain modules of distance learning (home studies) as well as face-to-face courses. In the second semester participants should attend a short practicum or field study.

### 2.1 Basic Courses

*The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.* – Alvin Toffler

The basic courses introduce participants to transdisciplinary, drawn-from-life learning. The contents are explained from different scientific and humanistic perspectives. An experience-based approach relates theory and practice, knowledge and application, potentials and reality.

## 2.2 Major Courses

*Justice is truth in action.* — Benjamin Disraeli

The major courses provide participants with practical tools on how civil society in crisis areas can be supported. Two main fields are focused::

### 2.2.1 Empowerment for Political Participation

*When you give food to the poor, they call you a saint. When you ask WHY the poor have no food, they call you a communist.* — Archbishop Helder Camara

A goal of this program is to support the consolidation of pluralistic, democratic communities. On the agenda will be local governance, development of political parties, elections and human rights as the basis of participatory democracy.

Concepts of political ideologies will be discussed as well as different approaches to democratization, the Philippine constitution and relevant laws and regulations.

The question how international politics affects civil society, as well as the legitimacy of third party conflict intervention will be elaborated on.

A course on “Protection and Promotion of Human Rights” aims at enhancing the skills needed for dealing with human rights in the field. It ensures an efficient, relevant, sustainable, participatory and accountable work. The course is designed to raise participants’

self-awareness in terms of behavior, attitudes and values when undertaking human rights fieldwork.

Further courses include sessions on core skills like monitoring, fact-finding, investigating and reporting. The protection of vulnerable persons will also be an issue dealt with.

Finally, political empowerment as a means for long-term violence prevention will be discussed and emphasized.



### 2.2.2 Empowerment for Nonviolent Conflict Intervention

*If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.* — Bishop Desmond Tutu

Democracy is political participation but also resistance. Courses on Nonviolent Conflict Intervention, Aikido and Peace and Conflict Journalism introduce participants to various strategies, methods and tools of active nonviolence. The goal is to ground the lessons learned in the political empowerment courses on creative, nonviolent approaches. To achieve true changes towards a popular democracy, special emphasis is put on empowering minorities and women for joining the political arena.

### 3. Participants

*The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be good or evil.* – Hannah Arendt

Women are underrepresented, often discriminated and sometimes even excluded in democratic political structures. To nurture and support women political activities the course is reserved for women participants.

However, parts of the program are together with postgraduate students from the University of St. La Salle. Those mixed classes provide both an exchange with academic perspectives and common learning processes. To assure mutual understanding of participants, the course language will initially be Hiligaynon.

Especially welcome are participants from 20 to 35 years of age who haven't had the chance to finish secondary education but who are interested in specializing in civil society support.

Due to international sponsors there are no course fees. The CCP usually starts in April and finishes in March. The maximum turnout is 35 participants. Slots will be provided on a first come-first served base. The participants are expected to attend all weekend courses.

### 4. Curriculum Certificate Course

**CERTIFICATE COURSE  
IN  
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT, CRISIS PREVENTION  
AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (45 UNITS)**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Basic Courses	9 units
Major Courses	36 units
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45 units</b>

**CURRICULUM** UNITS

**Basic Courses** (9 units)

CC 101	Computer Skills	3
CC 102	Language Skills (Tagalog and English)	3
CC 103	Logic Training (Mathematics and Natural Sciences)	3

**Major Courses** (36 units)

CC 104*	Introduction to Philippine and International Politics	3
CC 105*	Functions and Players of the Security Sector	3
CC 106	Contemporary Philippine History	3
CC 107*	Human Rights – Misbalance in Economical, Political and Social Structures	3
CC 108	Protection and Promotion of Human Rights	3
CC 109	Communication Skills	3
CC 110	Foundations of Investigation and Research	3
CC 111	Foundations in Psychology	3
CC 112*	Nonviolent Conflict Intervention	3
CC 113*	Information Dissemination – Peace and Conflict Journalism	3
CC 114*	Political Empowerment and Participation	3
CC 115	Martial Arts	3

\*) Courses joined by postgraduate students from the University of St. La Salle