ICNC 2019 Participant-Led Course Final Evaluation Graphs

The graphs below are from ICNC’s 2019 Participant-Led Online Course Civil Resistance Struggles: How Ordinary People Win Rights, Freedom, and Justice. The survey was divided into nine sections. 28 participants completed the survey.

I. Course Content ......................................................................................................................... 2
II. Group Work .............................................................................................................................. 9
III. General Impression of the Course .......................................................................................... 12
IV. Knowledge Gained .................................................................................................................. 14
V. Self-Learning Community ....................................................................................................... 17
VI. Applicability ........................................................................................................................... 21
VII. Self-Assessment ..................................................................................................................... 24
VIII. Technology ............................................................................................................................. 28
IX. Improvements and Testimonials ............................................................................................ 29
I. Course Content

1. The goals of the course and its modules were clear

![Bar Chart]

- 24 [86%] (Strongly Agree)
- 4 [14%] (Neutral)
- No responses for 1 (Strongly Disagree), 2, 3
2. Course content was comprehensive and balanced, and topics were well selected
3. Taking this online course was a positive experience

- 0 (Strongly Disagree)
- 2 (7%)
- 4 (14%)
- 22 (79%) (Strongly Agree)
4. Please explain your overall impressions of the course. Was there a particular part of the course that was most valuable to you? If so, what was it and why?

- “My overall impression about the course is that it was well balanced, progressive and just uplifting”

- “For me the trifecta of civil resistance was particularly the most important. Learning about unity, planning, and nonviolent discipline as determinant factor for the success or failure of nonviolent movements helped me to advance my knowledge about civil resistance.”

- “The course was very important to me and I think all the modules were equally important. The module on anti-corruption campaigns was very useful because there is a lot of corruption in my country and it gave valuable insights on how best to deal with it”

- “Connecting with other participants to discuss civil resistance was fascinating. The readings and videos were also great.”

- “I personally liked to read and watch videos about specific movements/campaigns across the globe. Topics and sessions about the use of art, theater and music and the anti-corruption case studies on Kenya and Afghanistan inspired me lot. I was able to experience how nonviolence is used in different countries to bring about positive change where violent struggles failed. It gave me the desire to continue learning about civil resistance and how I can apply/duplicate some of the things I learnt in my country.”
5. Course content was organized and planned well

- 0 (Strongly Disagree)
- 0
- 1 [4%]
- 5 [18%]
- 22 [79%]
6. Course modules and content were timed and sequenced well

- 1 (Strongly Disagree): 1 [4%]
- 2: 0
- 3: 1 [4%]
- 4: 7 [25%]
- 5 (Strongly Agree): 19 [68%]
7. What did you think about the length of the course and density of content? Should the course be longer, shorter, or was it just right? Should there be more content, less content, or was the amount of content just right? What other topics could have been discussed?

- “More case studies should be discussed, participants should be encouraged to do a short report on a nonviolent movement”
- “The course material, time, and density was just right”
- “As far as the length of the course is concerned, in my view, it was just a right fit that balanced the situation of participants from different circumstances. For a two month long course, the content was right. Even the reading materials, which seemed extraordinary in number, is advantageous so that learners can read them after the course is over.”
- “I felt the length of the course and density was perfect. Content was just right.”
- “I think it's long enough for a self-led course. There could have been more of an emphasis on gender and creative arts in nonviolent resistance campaigns. To be honest, there was more than enough material and towards the end of the course I found it hard to commit the time and began to lose steam as well.”
- “It could be a bit longer, maybe 8 weeks. The content was great and the additional readings were really nice. They made me understand the theory better. The videos were a bit old fashioned, but fine to watch.”
- “The course content is quite heavy. I feel more time should be given because some of us could participate more over the weekends. Other interesting topics to study would be in predominantly Muslim nations, like Sudan and Algeria, where mass protests are putting pressure on political leaders to step down.”
II. Group Work

8. Small group exercises were organized and substantive

![Bar Chart]

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 (Strongly Agree)

- 1 [4%]
- 2 [7%]
- 4 [14%]
- 11 [40%]
- 10 [36%]
9. Small group exercises complemented and enriched individual learning
10. Please describe your overall experience with the group work. Were there any particular parts of the group exercise that you found especially helpful for engagement & learning or/and challenging and why?

- “The group module on strategies against corruption regimes was interesting as participants were able to share perspectives based on experience in their countries.”

- “I loved the video meetings, and I loved that specific requirements were given for how the groups needed to connect because that made it so much easier to bring the group together!”

- “I enjoyed learning with/from other peers who have different background and experiences. Nevertheless, it was challenging to coordinate online meetings. They sometimes ended up with some members doing all the work, while the absent ones still getting credit for a "group project" in which they did not contribute.”

- “I regretted that some group members were not really involved in the group assignments when it was about contributing ideas and inputs. If all had participated actively and seriously, the experience would have been even wonderful and the learning would have been highly enriching.”

- “I think this is the main downfall of the course. The 'self-led' aspect of group work requires someone to take a lead and its best if that lead is a moderator, not another participant, in my opinion.”
III. General Impression of the Course

11. The course met or exceeded my expectations

- 0 [0%] (Strongly Disagree)
- 1 [4%]
- 1 [4%]
- 8 [29%]
- 18 [64%] (Strongly Agree)
12. I would recommend this course to other people

- 5: 24 [86%]
- 4: 3 [11%]
- 3: 1 [4%]
- 2: 0
- 1: 0

1 (Strongly Disagree) 2 3 4 5 (Strongly Agree)
IV. Knowledge Gained

13. I now have more knowledge about civil resistance and its various topics than I had before taking the course

- 1 (Strongly Disagree): 0
- 2: 0
- 3: 1 [4%]
- 4: 5 [18%]
- 5 (Strongly Agree): 22 [79%]
14. I learned a considerable amount of new information about civil resistance

- 1 (Strongly Disagree): 0
- 2: 0
- 3: 1 [4%]
- 4: 2 [7%]
- 5 (Strongly Agree): 23 [82%]
15. In what areas of civil resistance did you increase your knowledge during the course?

- “Planning, tactics, strategies and practical examples from various parts of the world”

- “My conceptual understanding of civil resistance increased”

- “In the area of practice and application, specifically”

- “A thousand word couldn’t express the knowledge and skills I got from the course. However, to be short and brief, I learned how to lead civil resistance, train people about the basics of nonviolent struggle, and conduct researches and disseminate information for the wider public so that the movement is strategic and sustainable. In general, I became very familiar with the fundamental concepts, tactics, strategies, methods, and overall benefits of nonviolent movement.”
V. Self-Learning Community

16. The self-learning community guidelines were clear and easy to understand

- 1 (Strongly Disagree): 0
- 2: 0
- 3: 6 [21%]
- 4: 3 [10%]
- 5 (Strongly Agree): 19 [68%]
17. Course participants offered comments that helped me in my learning
18. What did other course participants do that was helpful to your learning and engagement with the course content? What advice would you give other course participants?

- “The diversity of the participants drove home to me the idea that freedom is yearned for globally”

- “I appreciated participants talking about the movements they had been involved in or the contexts where they were coming from. Speaking with international participants was fantastic.”

- It was highly constructive for me to go through other participants comments in the discussions. I could learn about their experiences and perspectives on specific topics. I would therefore advice others to go the extra mile by not only writing constructive comments about their own experiences, but also taking the initiative and go through other's comments and leave them feedback where possible.”

- “I enjoyed the comments of course participants on my posts and also benefited from their personal stories of using people power in their environments.”
19. How could the participant-led interactions and learning in your view could be improved in this type of courses?

- “I think the course can benefit a lot from a facilitator (even if it is only for an hour or two in every module). I understand this represents an extra cost, but perhaps a small registration fee for the class can help cover this expense. The quality and focus of the discussions would benefit enormously just by having a person moderating the online interactions.”

- “Give more time to complete the modules and solve technical issues in the early stages of the course.”

- I think the nature of the platform has limitations - e.g. not being able to see who else is online at a particular moment, not getting live-notifications, etc. the types of video conferencing I’d never heard of before - I managed to get one to work, but not the other, and in the end we used skype anyway. Also one person in my group was 6 time zones away.”

- “There has to be a different way to make group work more effective as the diversity of the participants is an added advantage that needs to be experienced”
VI. Applicability

20. Course content matched my interests and professional needs

- 0 (Strongly Disagree)
- 0
- 1 [4%]
- 5 [18%]
- 22 [79%]
21. The knowledge I gained from the course will be relevant in my current and future study/work/activities
22. How do you think you will apply the knowledge from the course in your current/future professional activities?

- “Attending more nonviolent social movement events and writing/researching about the topic”

- “The course gave me new ideas and skills on how I can use civil resistance to advocate for positive change without using violence. As a human rights activist, I am very interested on how to push for more recognition of women’s rights in my country and how to empower women to be the main advocates in the struggle to achieve gender equality”

- “Since my PhD topic is related to youth, politics and civil resistance, I will be using a great deal of what I’ve learnt from this course in my research. It has enlightened my view towards many important issues that are related to the issues we face today”
23. How would you assess your own engagement with the course material, including participation in the course forums?
23a) If you were not able to keep up with the course material as much as you would have liked, could you please share your thoughts on why? How could have this been rectified, if at all?

- “I mostly kept up, but sometimes there was too much reading. I think the readings could have been streamlined”

- “I found the course materials to be very useful but couldn’t finish reading them all given that I had to juggle the course with work. After the course, I am planning to use these materials as manuals for my personal self-development and for nonviolent trainings”

- “I think that the lack of live interaction with other participants was a demotivating factor”
23b) If you kept up with the pace of work and your participation met your course commitment, what tips would you share with future participants about how you managed the course load, engagement with the material, and participation in the course forums?

- “Plan daily schedules between your work and availability of internet connection. Allocate your free time for the online course”

- “It does seem a bit busy to work and pursue learning. I decided to write down what I planned to do each day of the week. I tried to 'put first things first' to recognize high priority issues and allocate adequate time for each tasks”

- “I think it is important to commit one hour per day 5 days a week and go to the forums the minute you finish the material required, then return a few days later to see what others have posted”

- Make good use of the mobile app if you have a smart phone. Once a module is open, make sure to read the first instructions and at least begin watching a video and reading part of a text. You can also just download it. This action makes it easier to follow the course instead of having to wait and read the assigned texts, watch the videos and engage in forum discussions at the last minute just to finish the module”
24. How could participants' involvement and engagement in the course have been maintained or facilitated more effectively? What other ideas or tools can you think of that might have helped increase your or other participants' engagement with the content and in forum discussions?

- “Somehow you need to encourage conversations in the discussion forums rather than one time discussions posts, otherwise the participant-led element is not as useful. Perhaps each week, ten participants could be randomly assigned and asked to post their thoughts, and everyone could respond as part of a conversation. I would also suggest having Slack channels where people can have real time discussions”

- “I think that having a course moderator can really help to keep discussions on track, facilitate a better understanding of the materials, and engaging the participants more with the course. I understand that this may be expensive or not feasible, but perhaps in the future ICNC can think about having an intern or someone else to do this task”

- “I think a minimal form of moderation should be called for. Yes, we got an email about the start of group work, but perhaps some moderation of group work, at least, is called for (keep the rest of the course self-led)”
VIII. Technology

25. What was your overall experience with the online course web platform and the ICNC mobile app? How could the online course web platform and mobile app have been improved to create a better learning environment? Please list any technical challenge or difficulties that you experienced during the course on either the web platform or the mobile app.

- “I was very comfortable with the online course web platform and ICNC mobile application. One thing that I wanted to let you know about the ICNC mobile app is it takes large amount of money and time to download course materials. The rest were well designed and technically I didn’t observe any setbacks”

- “The web platform worked very well. The app not so much. I tried several times to use the ICNC app (when I was commuting or not at home/work) but it kept crashing when trying to load some sections and videos (and I have a good phone with lots of memory and storage capacity)”

- “I enjoyed the mobile app as it is. It was very helpful when I was in the public bus and could still access the course”

- “It was, in general, very good. Almost no problem and when there was, it was diligently solved”
IX. Improvements and Testimonials

26. Do you have any other suggestions for how to improve this online course in the future?

- "I’d recommend having audio only versions of some of the materials. I drive often and being able to listen while I drive would have saved me a lot of time. I tried to do so for the videos, but some of the videos were visual or had subtitles in lieu of voiceovers"

- “Simplify the instructions in each module please. They are too detailed and sometimes confusing”

- “I think this online course is important and it could be good have a general course which is general and specific courses per continent like an African course”

- “Give participants more time to read the content”

27. Testimonials

- "Before I took this 6 week participant led course, I had a lot of doubt about the success of nonviolent resistance from the practical context of my country. I am now a full convert and believe that it can be successful!"-Anonymous, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019

- "This is the course to take if you are curious about civil resistance and how to use it to champion social justice. The course challenged me to be more comfortable about engaging and leading civil resistance movements for social good."-Emmanuel Awine Anyorikeya, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019

- "This course is amazing. So happy I took it! I will have this knowledge forever and be able to contribute in ways that were not possible prior to being in the course!"-Anonymous, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019
• "This course gave me profound conceptual and theoretical knowledge about civil resistance. I learned about how the success of nonviolent movements is much larger than violent ones, which I never imagined it would be." - Abdi S. Omar, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019

• "This is more than just a course, it is an experience that awakens one's consciousness to the boundless influence that nonviolent resistance can exert. It empowers you to impact your world. It is possible!" - Olabode Olanusi, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019

• "I personally liked to read and watch videos about specific movements across the globe. Topics and sessions about the use of art, theater and music and on countering corruption in countries like Kenya and Afghanistan inspired me lot." - Anonymous, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019

• "The experiences regarding civil resistance movements in different countries were instrumental to contextualize it to my context. Ideas coming out from group members shaped my thoughts and encouraged me to do more." - Anonymous, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019

• "I appreciated participants talking about the movements they had been involved in or the contexts where they were coming from. Speaking with international participants was fantastic." - Anonymous, ICNC Participant-Led Course 2019