

INTRODUCTION TO PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
Polit 119/Psych 118

Fall 2013

MW -- 11-11:50
Severance 108

F - individual section meetings

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of Peace and Conflict studies. One of the main tenets of this course is that no one field of study can provide a complete understanding of the issues covered in this field. Consequently, in this course we will take multiple disciplinary perspectives as, for instance, we try to understand the factors that lead to human conflict and aggression, including those that are psychological, sociological, anthropological, environmental, political, economic, religious, and historical in nature. When examining conflict, our analysis will also range from the micro- or interpersonal-level to the macro- or international-level. Additionally, we will explore the potential links between issues of social and environmental justice and violent conflict, including the relationship between different forms of violence, such as structural versus episodic violence, and perceptions of injustice. Besides exploring the sources of conflict and aggression, however, this course will examine how nonviolent conflict can be used to right social wrongs. A major focus of the course will be to critically evaluate nonviolent means for resolving issues of injustice and conflict.

Class Format and Expectations

This course will combine both lecture and discussion. For this course to be successful, each person needs to: 1) faithfully read the assigned chapter(s) or article(s); and 2) be prepared to discuss this material in class. The amount of reading will vary from week to week: sometimes less, sometimes more. In order to facilitate class discussion, particularly for our weekly discussion sections, you will be asked on most weeks to post comments on the reading to the Blackboard on-line

discussion forum. (These are meant to be informal reflections, but also to demonstrate that you have done the reading, have given it ample consideration, and are ready to discuss it; details about your discussion posting will be distributed before the first posting is due).

On three weeks during the semester, instead of the weekly Blackboard posting, you are required to write a reaction paper to that week's readings. Take an argument or issue addressed in the readings, and explain your understanding of it. In addition, your paper should address one or more of the following questions: why you find it interesting or significant, how it might add to your understanding of peace and conflict, what the argument or issue might fail to consider, and/or how it relates some of the other readings or topics we have discussed. These papers should be no longer than 2 pages (about 500 words). The three response papers are due in class on the assigned dates (see below). *No late work will be accepted.*

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will occur on Wednesday, October 16, while the final exam is scheduled for December 17. Both exams will be a combination of essays and short answers.

Given that this class is a broad overview of the field of peace and conflict studies, we will be moving rather quickly from topic to topic. To provide you with an opportunity to focus on a particular issue in more depth, you will be required to write either an experiential paper or a research paper. The experiential paper entails becoming involved in a community organization or project related in some way to the topic of this course. If you choose this option, you will need to write a brief (one-page) proposal, articulating how your involvement will relate to the goals of the course. This proposal should be presented to us by October 2. If your proposal is accepted, you will then write a final paper describing the purpose of the group, your involvement with the group, and your reflections on the overall experience you had participating in the group. When reflecting on this experience, *incorporate material from the lectures, readings, and/or class discussions.*

If you decide to write a research paper, the intent is to enable you to learn more about a specific issue related to peace and conflict resolution. If you decide on this option, you will write a brief proposal articulating the nature of the paper, due by November 4. Regardless of the paper option you choose, the paper should not exceed 12 pages (not including references). The papers will be due Dec. 5.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Mid-term exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Experiential or Research Paper	20%
Blackboard postings, class participation, attendance	20%
Reaction Papers	10%

There are no assigned textbooks for this class. All of the readings will be available on Blackboard, and copies of some of the texts will be on reserve in the library. We will adhere to the schedule for the readings below as much as possible, and will let you know of any changes as we proceed.

Please note: We ask that you not use laptop computers or other electronic devices (such as smart phones) during class time. While some use laptops solely to take notes, the temptation to do otherwise is great and it distracts other students. If you have a particular need for an exceptions please let us know.

Class Schedule

Week 1

W 9/4 **Why Study Peace & Conflict?**

F 9/6 **Are We Natural Born Killers?**

Reading: Cortright, *Peace: A History*, chapt. 1

Brunk, *Shaping a Vision: The Nature of Peace Studies*

Kohn, *On the Nature of Human Nature*

[Note: We'll be meeting as one group in Severance 108.]

Week 2

M 9/9 **So Why Aggression?**

Readings: Fiske, *Basic Human Needs*

Grossman, *On Killing*

Hedges, *The Careerists*

W 9/11 **Do We Live in a Toxic Environment?**

Movie: *Killing Us Softly IV*

F 9/13 **Discussion Groups**

Week 3

M 9/16 **Bullying in the Classroom**

Guest: Jim Boland, Professor of Education, Director of the
Peace Resource Center, Wilmington College.

W 9/18 **Interpersonal Perspectives on Conflict Resolution**

Guest: Yeworkwha Belachew, Oberlin College Ombudsperson,
Director of OCDC

F 9/20 **Discussion Groups**

Reading: Cloud, *When Bullying Turns Deadly*

Szalavitz, *How Not to Raise a Bully*

Week 4

M 9/23

Are We Inherently War Like?

Reading: Fry, *Beyond War* (selected readings)

W 9/25

Hobbes, Realism and the State System

Readings: Snyder, *One World, Rival Theories*

Hobbes, *The State of Nature and the State of War.*

Tilly, *War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.*

Mearsheimer, *Anarchy and the Struggle for Power*

F 9/27

Discussion Groups

Week 5

M 9/30

Intergroup/National Perspectives: Four Beliefs that Propel Groups Toward Conflict

Readings: Eidelson & Eidelson, *Five Beliefs Leading to Intergroup Conflict*

Moghaddam, *The Staircase to Terrorism*

W 10/2

(Mis)Perceptions that Propel Nations Toward Conflict

Readings: Kahneman and Renshion, *Why Hawks Win*

Jervis, *Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and Intentions of the Adversary*

Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*

[10/2: Experiential paper proposal (if chosen) due]

F 10/4

Discussion Groups

[Response paper due in class]

Week 6

M 10/7

Intergroup/National Perspectives: Ideas that Propel Groups Toward Peace

Readings: Tam et al., *Postconflict Reconciliation*

Hughes et al., *What's There to Fear?*

W 10/9

Liberalism and Democratic Peace Theory

Readings: (review Snyder, *One World*)

Kant, *Perpetual Peace*

Cortright, *Peace: A History*, chaps. 11, 15

Schultz, Perry, Kissinger, & Nunn, *Toward a Nuclear-Free World.*

[Th 10/10, 7 pm: *Dirty Wars* film screening and discussion with producer]

F 10/11 **Discussion Groups**

Week 7

M 10/14 **Conflict Resolution, Prisoners' Dilemma, Getting to Yes**
Readings: Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, Ch. 1
Fisher and Ury, *Getting to Yes*

W 10/16 **Midterm**

F 10/18 **War & Peace Art**
[Note: We'll be meeting as one group in Severance 108.]

FALL BREAK

Week 8

M 10/28 **Peace, Violence, and the Importance of Inclusionary Thought**
Reading: Opatow, *Social Injustice*

W 10/30 **Political Economy of War**
Readings: Galtung, *A Structural Theory of Imperialism*.
Johnson, *Sorrows of Empire*, Prologue
King Jr., *Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam*
Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation

Thursday, 11/1, 7:00 PM: Film *Why We Fight* (95 minutes)

F 11/1 **Discussion Groups**

[Response paper due in class]

Week 9

M 11/4 **Global War on Terror**
Readings: Pape, *Al Qaeda's Smart Bombs*
Zunes, *Terrorism and Security in a Post-9/11 World*
bin Ladin, *Speech to the American People*
Kaldor, *New and Old Wars* (chapt. 1)
Mothana, *How Drones Help Al Qaeda*

[11/4: Research paper proposal (if chosen) due]

W 11/6 **From State Security to Human Security**

Reading: (review Snyder, *One World*)
Kaldor, *New and Old Wars* (chapt. 6)
Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, *Human Security in a
Borderless World*
Donnelly, *Military Intervention and Human Rights*

F 11/8 **Discussion Groups**

Week 10

M 11/11

History and Theory of Non-Violent Conflict (Part I)

Readings:

Cortright, *Peace: A History*, chapt. 10
Thoreau, *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*
King Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*.
Mary King, *How to learn nonviolent resistance as King
did*

W 11/13 **Non-Violent Conflict: The Serbian Case**

Readings: Rosenberg, *Revolution U*
Popovic, Milivojevic, and Djinojic, *Nonviolent
Struggle: 50 Crucial Points*

F 11/15 **Discussion Groups**

Week 11

M 11/18

Thinking Strategically About Nonviolent Change

Readings: Arendt, *On Violence*
Carter, *People Power and Protest*

W 11/20 **Thinking Strategically About Nonviolent Change**

Readings: Chenoweth and Stephan, *Mobilization and Resistance*
Roberts, *Civil Resistance and Power Politics*

F 11/22 **Thinking Strategically About Nonviolent Change**

Readings: *Nonviolent Struggle: 50 Crucial Points*

Week 12

M 11/25

Gender & Violence: The Girl Effect

Readings: Mortenson, *Stones into Schools* (selections)
Kristoff & WuDunn, *Half the Sky* (selections)

Tickner, *Man, the State and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security*

W 11/27 **Gender & Nonviolence**

[Response paper due in class]

F 11/29 **Thanksgiving Break**

Week 13

M 12/2 **Global Warming, Peak Oil, and Violence**

Readings: Hare, *A Safe Landing for the Climate*

Wallace, *The Security Dimensions of Climate Change.*

Kasser, *Shifting Values in Response to Climate Change.*

W 12/4 **Food Security**

Readings: Brown, *The New Geopolitics of Food*

[12/5: Research/Experiential paper due]

F 12/6 **Discussion Groups**

Week 14

M 12/9 **Is the End of War Possible?**

Readings: Boulding, *Building Utopias in History*

Falk, *On Humane Governance*

Mueller, *War Has Almost Ceased to Exist*

Hochschild, *Bury the Chains*

McCarthy, *Teaching Peace*

W 12/11 **Final Review Session**

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, 12/17, 9-11 am.