



**Special Topics:
Sociology of Peace and Violence
(3850:365:001)**

Spring Semester 2005
MW 3:20- 4:35 p.m.
Olin 105
<http://webct.uakron.edu>

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“Peace is a highly charged dynamic process involving constant negotiation at every level of human interaction from local to global.” Elise Boulding, “Dialectics of Peace”

“Many citizens of these United States still long to live in a society where *beloved community* can be formed – where loving ties of care and knowing bind us together in our differences.” bell hooks, “Beloved Community: A World Without Racism”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This special topics course is designed to explore violence in many settings including interpersonal, group, community, society, and global. During the course, we will examine theories of human aggression and violence, exploring their underlying assumptions about human nature and the cause of violence. However, our focus will not ultimately be on violence, but rather on approaches to violence intervention and prevention and activities aimed at peace-building and reconciliation at the interpersonal, inter-group, and societal levels.

This course aims to help students become familiar with how interpersonal, inter-group and societal conflict are interconnected with one another, how they can take both manifest and latent forms, and how we as individuals and groups can work to reduce or (perhaps, even) eliminate violence in its myriad forms and manifestations.

REQUIRED READINGS

Barak, Gregg. 2003. Violence & Nonviolence: Pathways to Understanding. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Other readings as indicated for student presentations.

CLASS FORMAT

In this course, we will gather together to discuss the material. While this class will include lectures providing overviews of key concepts and theoretical and methodological frameworks, the majority of class time will be spent in discussion. Therefore, this class requires that you actively and responsibly participate in classroom discussions, making informed contributions based on assigned and outside reading. It is necessary that you ***keep up with assigned readings and attend class on a regular basis.***

Respectful and ethical class behavior:

Given the high frequency of violence in our world, it is quite likely that some of the students in this class have been either victims and/or perpetrators of these problems. Given this reality, the following guidelines will be in place in our class:

- 1). Do **not** feel obligated to reveal your own experiences. While our own experiences can provide learning for ourselves and others, there is no expectation that you reveal personal information.
- 2). Having said that, any revelations made in the class remain in the class. **No sharing** of this information with others outside of class.
- 3). In discussion we will show respect to survivors of violence and to the decisions they have made even if we disagree with those decisions. This respect will also be granted to perpetrators and we will be open to recognize their own experiences with victimization, while still holding them responsible for their actions. This may be (will probably be) challenging to all of us since we are culturally inclined to think in dichotomous terms of “good guys” and “bad guys”.
- 4). Disagreements will be handled through constructive dialogue. It is easy to get angry with individuals who disagree with us, and with entire categories of people. As people seeking to learn about and practice principles of peace, we must do our best to keep the dialogue constructive and respectful.
- 5).
- 6).
- 7).
- 8).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Active class participation:** Participation involves regular and timely attendance, participation in classroom discussions which reflects critical thinking about the assigned readings, and maintaining active communication with your classmates and the instructor. You should read the assigned readings by the date indicated on the class schedule.
2. **Student Presentations:** Students, working in groups (no more than 4 in a group!), will be required to do *one class presentation* that combines the assigned readings for the week with an extra article or reading (see readings in the course schedule). The students leading the discussion will summarize the key points in the reading material and develop questions/activities that will stimulate class discussion.

Each group will prepare a 3 page outline/ summary of the key points and class discussion questions and will distribute this to all of the class participants. On the top of each outline/summary, please include the following information: (1) Your names; (2) Date of your presentation; (3) Name of course; (4) Citation(s) for readings.

It is expected that each member of the group will be equally prepared and will share in the preparation and presentation of the materials. Each group member will receive the same grade for the presentation. Therefore, it is imperative that you work together, share the workload, listen to one another and learn from one another. If I evaluate one of the participants as being weak/ unprepared, this will negatively impact the grade of the entire group.

3. **In-Class Midterm Examination:** The exam will include multiple-choice, true-false, and short-answer questions.
4. **Take Home Final Exam:** The final exam questions will be given during the second half of the semester. These questions will involve material covered after the Midterm Exam. In particular students will be expected to apply key concepts and perspectives covered this term. The final exam must be typed, double-spaced with a cover page that includes student name, course title, and assignment title (Final Exam) and a reference page with a complete list of all cited work. Students who work on the final exam in the Writing Skills Lab in 212 Carroll Hall will earn 5 extra points on their exam (reports are sent from the Lab to the instructor so there will be an official list).

You may turn in the exam anytime after May 1st, but no later than the scheduled final exam date (Monday, May 11th) by 5:00 p.m. Turn exams in during class or deliver them to my mailbox in 248 Olin Hall.

COURSE GRADES

Participation	10
Student Presentations	20
Midterm Exam	35
<u>Take Home Final Exam Essay</u>	<u>35</u>
TOTAL	100%

COMPLETION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Only extreme and unusual physical or emotional circumstances (for which you have documentation) will be considered as an excuse for not turning in assignments by the due date or receiving an incomplete grade in the course. If you fail to turn in an assignment without prior notification and permission from the instructor, you will receive a 0 for that work.

Plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 for the work involved for minor offenses; major offenses will result in Academic Misconduct charges at the University level. For those who need clarification, plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of information, wording,

organization, or ideas. Whether the original source is public (e.g., a newspaper, book, journal article, the Web) or private (e.g., a classmate's paper), you need to indicate your indebtedness to it. Where you repeat the exact language of your source, you must treat the borrowed material as a quotation and place it within quotation marks. However, by merely changing a few words or the word order or by paraphrasing, you do not avoid plagiarism. In all cases, you should cite your source! (Adapted from a handout by Department of English, Trenton State College).

Class Schedule Spring 2005 (subject to change)	
Monday	Wednesday
<p>1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Martin Luther King Jr., 12/11/1964</p>	<p>1/19 Introduction to Course: Defining Peace and Nonviolence</p> <p>Sullivan and Tifft, “The Violence of Power”</p>
<p>1/24 Violence & Nonviolence</p> <p>Text: Introduction (all)</p>	<p>1/26 Spheres of Violence</p> <p>Text: Ch. 1, pp.21-26</p>
<p>1/31 American Violence in Perspective</p> <p>Text: Ch. 1, pp.26-end</p>	<p>2/2 Glassner, “The Culture of Fear” (Introduction and Ch.1)</p> <p>Presenters:</p>
<p>2/7 Film: <i>Bowling for Columbine</i></p>	<p>2/9 Interpersonal Violence</p> <p>Text: Ch. 2</p>
<p>2/14 Pelka “Raped: A Male Survivor Breaks His Silence” and hooks, “Violence in Intimate Relationships: A Feminist Perspective”</p> <p>Presenters:</p>	<p>2/16 Institutional Violence</p> <p>Text: Ch. 3</p>

2/21 Iadicoloa and Shupe, "State Violence" Presenters:	2/23 Structural Violence Text: Ch. 4
2/28 White, "Corporate Violence Against Women" Presenters:	3/2 Explaining Violence Text: Ch.5 Marullo and Klavacek, "War as a Social Problem"
3/7 Media and Violence Text: Ch.6	3/9 Film: <i>Game Over</i>
3/14 Sexuality and Violence Text: Ch.7	3/16 Enloe, "Masculinity as a Foreign Policy Issue" Presenters:
3/21 Film: <i>Tough Guise</i>	3/23 MIDTERM EXAM (Ch. 1-7)
3/28 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	3/30 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
4/4 Recovering from Violence Text: Ch.8	4/6 Film: <i>"Long Night's Journey Into Day"</i>
4/11 Diamond, "Peace & Reconciliation" Presenters:	4/13 Models of Nonviolence Text: Ch.9
4/18 Film: <i>Gandhi: Pilgrim of Peace</i>	4/20 King, "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam" Presenters:
4/25 Policies of Nonviolence Text: Ch. 10	4/27 Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Lyons, Director of the Center for Conflict Mgt.
5/2 Boulding, "The Other America" and Sullivan and Tifft, "Restorative Justice as a Transformative Process" Presenters:	5/4 Film: <i>Mighty Times: Legacy of Rosa Parks</i>

Turn in your final exam no later than **Monday, May 11th** by 5:00 p.m. to my mailbox in 248 Olin Hall.