

Manchester Community College

Course Syllabus

HUM*125: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

CRN 30953

Fall Semester 2010

Instructor: Professor Diana R. Hossain

Classroom: Lowe L141

Class Times: MW 9:30-10:50 am

Final Exam: Monday, December 20, 2010 at 9:30 am in L141

Office: AST Tower 409

Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:30 in T409

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Required Textbook: Peace and Conflict Studies, 2nd edition

Author: Barash and Webel

Publisher: Sage Publications, Inc.

ISBN: 978-1-4129-6120-2

Course Overview: This course is an interdisciplinary study of the concepts of peace and conflict as they relate to economic, sociological, psychological, historical, political, technological, cultural, ideological, geographical, and environmental factors since the end of the Cold War.

Course Objectives: Students will:

1. Familiarize themselves with the concepts of positive and negative peace;
2. Learn and practice the principles of a culture of peace;
3. Understand the roots of conflict;
4. Engage in careful and sustained reflection on some of the major problems confronting humankind today;
5. Familiarize themselves with issues of conflict management, nonviolence, social justice, and conflict resolution; and
6. Evaluate and reflect on their personal roles and responsibilities as world citizens.

Class Philosophy: This course is based on the premise that active learning is preferable to passive learning. Students need to contribute to a course if that course is to be successful. You can expect that lectures will be augmented by class discussion and activities in which you will be expected to participate. To do so in any meaningful way, you will need to attend regularly and prepare thoughtfully. Your progress and that of your classmates depend on your willingness to attend, prepare, and participate.

Requirements/Grading:

Twelve acceptable response logs	12 points
Quiz/Discussion credit	18 points
Final Exam	20 points
Oral presentation on major figure, organization, event, or development no shorter than 15 minutes and no longer than 25	20 points
Research paper on same figure, organization, event, or development no shorter than 5 pages, exclusive of documentation and title page	30 points

Total points: 100

Evaluating Response Logs:

The response logs are a form of discovery writing; therefore, to encourage you to speculate and consider thoughtfully, these logs will not be graded with letter grades. However, for a log to receive credit, it must **specifically address the reading and/or question assigned for the day** on which it is submitted. It must meet the minimum length requirement (no fewer than 250 words). No late logs will be accepted, and you must be present during the class for work you wish to submit in order to receive credit for that log.

The logs are meant to be a place for you to record your responses to the readings and/or activities. Do not use any sources other than the reading assigned for the day the log is due. Sole exception: you may refer to prior readings in the textbook.

Format of response logs: Must be typed, not handwritten. Double space. Use 12 point font. At the top of log, provide your name, the assignment, the due date, and the word count.

Reading Log Assignments and Due Dates: All the following readings are found in the blue manual.

September 13: War Prayer and Approaches to War

September 20: National Images and International Systems
Glamorized Nationalism: Some Examples in Poetry

Conscientious Objector

A Few Poetic Visions

September 27: Preventing War: Building “Negative Peace”

September 29: Getting to Yes

October 4: The Game of Disarmament

October 13: The Evolution of United Nations Peacekeeping

October 18: Building “Positive Peace” and Human Rights

November 1: Perpetual Peace

November 15: Ahimsa, or the Way of Nonviolence

November 17: Civil Disobedience

November 22: Letter from a Birmingham Jail

November 29: Neither Victims nor Executioners

Quizzes:

Most class meetings will include a brief quiz/journal that will be graded for correctness, clarity, and completeness. Quizzes will cover readings, lectures, and points raised during class/group discussions. You may “pass” on any three quiz/journals without penalty. If you are absent from class or arrive too late for the quiz, that is counted as a “pass.” You will need to write on your paper “pass” if you wish to “pass” on a quiz.

I normally give a quiz/journal during the first 5-10 minutes of class.

Discussion:

Much of the discussion will take place in small groups. Each group must appoint a recorder of the day, and the recorder must (1) take group attendance and (2) write down the ideas of the group; in order to receive credit for the report, observations must be written in complete sentences and accompany the page or line numbers that direct me to passages that you feel provide evidence in support of the group’s interpretations. Whenever possible, I will call upon the group to report out to the whole. However, whether I call upon you or not, always be sure to turn in the written notes or the group members will not receive full credit.

Your reading assignments in your textbook are listed below. In order to facilitate whole class discussion, please sign up to be a discussion facilitator. You may sign up individually or with another person. Your responsibility is to guide class discussion by **commenting on important aspects of the reading and/or by asking questions of the group to encourage discussion.**

Textbook Reading Assignments, Due Dates, and Discussion Facilitators:

September 8: Chapter 1 - _____

September 15: Chapter 2 - _____

September 22: Chapter 3 - _____

October 6: Chapter 10 - _____

October 13: Chapter 11 - _____

October 20: Chapter 13 - _____

October 27: Chapter 16 - _____

November 3: Chapter 17 - _____

November 8: Chapter 18 and 19 - _____

November 10: Chapter 20 - _____

Evaluating the Oral Presentation and the Research Paper:

I will use a “baseline” approach to evaluating the research paper; that is, a paper that represents an adequate response to the assignment will receive a ‘C’. An adequate response will demonstrate the following qualities: it will adhere to content, length, and format guidelines; it will be arranged into coherent and unified paragraphs; and it will contain few major errors in grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. A report that is not responsive to the assignment and that contains serious problems in logic, organization, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and structure will receive either a ‘D’ or ‘F’. On the other hand, a report that exceeds the normal requirements may receive a ‘B’ or an ‘A’. Such a report may, for example, be unusually well-developed, with explanations that are fuller than average; or it may contain particularly relevant examples; or its sentences may be especially well constructed or its word choice exceptionally appropriate.

In short, the absence of errors in development, organization, spelling, grammar, punctuation and sentence structure characterizes the ‘C’ report. The absence of such errors **plus some exceptional quality** as described above characterizes the ‘B’ or ‘A’ report.

The approach to evaluating oral presentations in this course will be analogous to the approach to evaluating written work. An exceptional (‘A’ or ‘B’) presentation may be unusually well developed with explanations that are fuller than average; or it may contain particularly numerous examples; or the design of your presentation (should you use Power Point or other visuals) may demonstrate an unusual level of creativity.

Oral Presentation Dates:

November 29

December 1

December 6

December 8

December 13

December 20: Final Exam Day and Submission of Research Paper

Research Project:

This semester you will work on a research project that will result in

1. An oral presentation on a major individual, organization, event or development bearing on Peace Studies. The presentation must be **not shorter than 15 minutes and no longer than 25**, and
2. a paper on the same individual, organization, event, or development **no shorter than 5 pages exclusive of documentation and title page.**

The content – ideas and information – in both the presentation and the paper must be based on **no fewer than five 'print' sources**, i.e., books and articles that have appeared in traditional print format. You may locate these sources electronically, i.e., through an online index, and you may access print sources electronically, since many print journals are now available online; however, each source you use must have gone through an editorial and/or peer review process. That means you may **not** use web sites as sources for the content of the presentation and paper.

You may, however, use web sites as sources for any *images* you will use if you plan to do a PowerPoint presentation.

There are quite a number of possible topics that you may select from. You may, of course, work with any of the authors in our textbook bibliographies. However, do not feel that you are limited to those individual authors. Check the listing of peace and justice resources that I gave to you on the first day of class. Go online and find a list of Nobel Peace Prize recipients. That list may give you some ideas. If you need to consult with me, you know where you can find me for office hours or before and after class. **Your final exam topic selection must be declared by October 21, 2009 if not before.**

Additional Important Information:

Missed Assignments: No make ups are allowed. If you miss a reading log, there is a one point penalty for

each log missed. You may “pass” on three quiz/journals without penalty. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. In other words, nothing is accepted late.

Audit: As taken from the MCC catalog: “This status allows a student to participate in class activities without being required to meet the examination requirements of the course. A student who wishes to change from credit to audit status must request this from the Registrar’s Office within the first four weeks of the course. Full tuition and fees are charged for course audits. Financial Aid does NOT cover audited classes.

Withdrawal Policy: Withdrawal is a student initiated process. In this course, you may withdraw up until the last day of class. However, failure to obtain and complete the necessary paperwork will result in a grade of “F”. Please consult the 2010-2011 MCC catalog for the complete college policy.

Class Cancellation Policy: On the rare occasions when class meetings must be cancelled, students will be so informed by means of a professionally-printed, standard form which is signed by the Division Director and on which the College logo is imprinted. This form will be posted on each entry door of the scheduled classroom. Information about cancellation due to the weather can be found on the MCC homepage: <http://www.mcc.commnet.edu/> or by calling 512-3004.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing (F) grade for the course.

Students with Disabilities: If you had disability or learning style which might impede your progress, or which requires accommodations, please see me. You should also contact Gail Hammond (512-3325) who coordinates services for students with special needs.