

Gateway Community College
HUM*198: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies
Course Syllabus
Fall Semester 2009

Instructors: Professor Carol Brutza and Professor Theresa Jeffries
Classroom: Long Wharf
Class Times: Monday 7:00 – 9:50PM

Contact Information:

Professor Carol Brutza
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Office Hours: Mon. 10:00-11:00AM
Wed. 10-11am
Tues. 4:00-5:15PM
Thurs. By appointment only

Mon. 6:00-7:00PM
Tues. 9:30-10:30AM
Thurs. 9:30-10:30AM

If you require time please call first. Be aware that just dropping by an office without calling to confirm you can be seen may not allow you to speak with the professors. Even during office hours it can be difficult to speak with a professor if others have already scheduled that time.

Optional 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:

Ten acceptable reflective response journals	100 points = 10 points each
Seven Group Activities	100 points = 14.29 points each
Midterm exam	100 points
Final Exam Project (2 parts)	
1) <u>Oral presentation</u> on major figure, organization, event, or development between 8-10 minutes in length	100 points
2) <u>Research paper</u> on same figure, organization, event, or development no shorter than 5 pages, exclusive of documentation and title page	100 points
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Total	500

Evaluating Response Journals:

The response journals are a form of discovery writing; therefore, to encourage you to speculate and consider thoughtfully, these journals 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 journals will be accepted, and you must be present during the class for work you wish to submit in order to receive credit for that assignment.

The journals 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 journal is due. Sole exception: you may refer to readings in the textbook on reserve in the library.

Format of response journals: Journals must be 250 words, typed, not handwritten, double-spaced and 12 point font. At the top of your paper, provide your name, the assignment, the due date, and the word count.

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 between 8-10 minutes in length, 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 the textbook bibliographies or authors of the articles provided during the semester. However, do not feel that you are limited to those individual authors. Go online and find a list of Nobel Peace Prize recipients. That list may give you some ideas. Please contact either professor early if you are having difficulty choosing a topic. Your final exam topic selection must be declared by November 2, 2009 if not before.

Evaluating the Oral Presentation and the Research Paper:

A “baseline” approach to evaluating the research paper will be used. That means 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 that used to evaluate 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. Be aware that the time limit is to be taken seriously.

Students should practice their presentations prior to class so the delivery is neither too long nor too short.

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 the instructors to passages that you feel provide evidence in support of the group's interpretations. Whenever possible, groups will be called upon to report out to the whole class. However, whether or not your group is called upon, always be sure to turn in the written notes or the group members will not receive full credit.

Additional Important Information:

Missed Assignments: Students should make every effort to submit all work on time and be in class for group activities and the exam. A grade of zero will be recorded for missing the exam, discussions, or failure to submit the response journals. Any exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the instructors.

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 who may require special accommodations and support services are encouraged to notify the ADA Coordinator in Room 152 and their instructors during the first week of classes. Instructors will provide reasonable assistance and/or accommodations to students completing this process.

Withdrawal Policy: Withdrawal is a student initiated process. Please refer to the 2009-2010 Gateway catalog for the complete college policy.

Class Cancellation Policy: On the rare occasions when class meetings must be cancelled, students will find an announcement on the classroom door. Information about cancellation due to inclement weather can be found on the college homepage or by listening to local news stations.

Gateway Community College

Course Schedule

Hum 198 Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

Fall 2009

Week 1 August 31

In-class

1. Introductions
2. Review of Course Description
3. Ground Rules
4. Final Exam Project
5. Engaged Reading Exercise
6. Group Activity 1 What is conflict?

(Assignments are due the following class. Since we meet once a week, if there are questions about assignments, email us or call during our office hours.)

Assignments

1. Required Readings (Handouts) (Use Engaged Reading Strategies)
 - a. "Approaches to War"
 - b. "War Prayer"
 - b. "National Images and International Systems"
 - c. "Glamorized Nationalism: Some Examples in Poetry"
2. Free write responses to the readings in your journal notebooks. Then write two questions about the readings. These questions will be used in our class discussions.
3. Textbook Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies , Chapter 1. (A copy of this book will be on reserve at the Long Wharf campus library.) (optional)

Monday, September 7. No Classes. Labor Day.

Week 2 September 14

In-class

1. How to Access Class online webpage
2. Continue, " What is conflict?" Activity 1
3. Question on Readings
4. Discussion of Readings
5. Film: Stand and Deliver (Identifying Conflict)
6. How to Write Reader Responses

1. Reader Response Paper #1 (250 words , typed) Topic: Conflict Defined
2. Reading: "History of Human Rights," David Barash (annotated and journal responses with questions) (Handout)
3. <http://www.universalrights.net/main/histof.htm>
4. Textbook , Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies, Chapter Chapter 17, 19 (optional)

Week 3 September 21

In-class

1. Question on Reading
2. Discussion
3. Human Rights Defined Activity 2 Part 1

Assignments

1. Reader Response Paper # 2 (250 words and typed) Topic: Human Rights
2. Reading: " Cultures of Peace: The Hidden Side of History" Elise Boulding (annotated and journal response)

Week 4 September 28

In-class

1. What's the Difference? Positive and Negative Peace
2. Question
3. Discussion
4. Just Vision Film

Assignments

Reader Response #3 (250 words and typed) Topic: Cultures of Peace

Readings (annotated and respond in journal)

- a. "Preventing War: Building Negative Peace"
- b. "Getting to Yes"
- c. "The Game of Disarmament"

Week 5 October 5

In-class

- a. Question
- b. Discussion
- c. Group Activity 3 What is Justice?

Assignments

1. Written Response #4. Interview Survey. Written summary of interviews. (250 words and typed)

2. Readings (annotated and respond in journal)
 - a. "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
 - b. Building "Positive Peace" and Human Rights

3. Prepare for Midterm

October 12 No Classes Columbus Day

Week 6 October 19

In-class

Guest Speaker: Sue Chenard, professor of English and co- author of the book , Running for the Right Reasons: A Saudi-born Woman's Pursuit of Democracy.

1. Midterm
2. Question
3. Discussion

4. Group Activity #3 Justice Part II

Assignments

1. Reader Response #5 (250 words and typed) Topic: Justice

Week 7 October 26

In-class

1. Lecture: Transitional/Transformational Justice
2. Brainstorm Topics and Resources for Final Exam
3. Strategies for Oral Presentations (Brainstorm, Outlines, Visual Aids, Using PowerPoint)

Assignments

1. Go to website Beyond Intractability, Home Page. Then go to section "Knowledge Base Contents" <http://www.beyondintractability.org/>. Great source for brainstorming topics for final exam projects.
2. Proposal for Final Exam Project (250 words and typed) #6
3. Readings: (annotated and journal responses)
 - a. "Gandhi: Ahimsa, or the Way of Nonviolence"
 - b. "Civil Disobedience" Henry David Thoreau"
4. Textbook , Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies, Chapter 21 (optional)

Week 8 November 2

In-class

Guest Speaker: C. Patrick Heidkamp, assistant professor of Geography at Southern Connecticut State University and co-author of the article, "Human Rights and Public Opinion: From Attitudes to Action"

1. Nonviolence
2. Question
3. Discussion
4. Film

Assignment:

1. Reader Response #7 (250 words and typed) Topic: Nonviolence
2. Reading (annotated and respond in journal)
 - a. "What is Creativity?"
3. Beyond Intractability website . Do Tutorial "How to Stop Fighting".

Week 9 November 9

In-class

Guest Speaker: Dr. Alicia Cabezedo, Professor and Peace Education Educator. "How Can We Make Peace Education a Competency in our Classrooms and in our Lives?"

1. Creativity and Negotiation Workshop

Assignments

- 1 Reader Response Case Study #8 (250 words and typed)
- 2 Textbook , Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies, Chapter 10 (optional)

Week 10 November 16

In-class

- 1.Group Discussion of Case Studies
- 3 Peace Movements Transformations
- 4 Guest Speaker
- 5 Group Activity # 7

Week 11 November 23

In-class

1. Conferencing with instructors on final exam projects.

Assignments

- 1.Bring in your own poem or lyrics to a song about nonviolence
- 2.Readings
 - a." A Few Poetic Visions"

- b. "Conscientious Objector"
- c. "Neither Victims nor Executioners"

(annotated and journal response)

3. Textbook , Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies, Chapter 22

4. Work on Final Exam Projects

Week 12 November 30

In-class

- 1. Panel Discussion "Great Nonviolent Moments in Literature"
Gateway's Humanities Department

Assignments

- 1. Prepare for Final Exam Presentations , Part I
- 2.

Week 13 December 7

In-class

1. Final Exam Project Presentations

Week 14 December 14

In-class

1. Final Exam Project Presentations

Assignments

Work on Final Exam Paper (250 words and typed)

Week 15 December 21

In-class

1. Final Exam Paper Due

2. Peace Party