



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

Peace Paradigms

School of International Service
International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program

SIS-607-002, Fall 2006
Tuesdays, 11:20 AM – 2:00 PM, Ward 303

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-5 PM, or by appointment

Course Summary:

This course is an introduction to various ways to study peace. This includes an overview of the history, development, and current expressions of contending approaches to peace, basic assumptions and methods, and application to current conflicts.

For the purposes of comparison and analysis, we will discuss the following paradigms:

- 1) Peace through coercive power
- 2) Peace through world order
- 3) Peace through conflict resolution
- 4) Peace through non-violence
- 5) Peace through personal and community transformation.

This course is a graduate seminar in which members are expected to participate actively in reflecting on assigned readings and engaging in the integrative discussion that builds on the readings. Each class session covers a designated topic based on a set of readings and will initially engage two members as reflective commentators along with the Instructor to bring out some initial reactions to the readings and pose some questions for discussion. (Course members will be randomly assigned to co-lead each weekly presentation.)

The goal of the course is to help you to think critically and creatively about peace, at both a theoretical and a practical level.

Required Texts:

Lederach, John Paul (1997) Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies. Washington DC, USIP Press. (ISBN 1-878379-73-9)

Avruch, Kevin (1998) Culture and Conflict Resolution. Washington DC, USIP Press. (ISBN 1-878379-82-8)

Holmes, Robert L. (1990) Nonviolence in Theory and Practice. Long Grove, IL, Waveland Press. (ISBN 1-57766-183-4)

Falk, Richard A. (2004) The Declining World Order: America's Imperial Geopolitics. New York and London, Routledge. (ISBN 0-415-94693-X)

Barash, David P. (2000) Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies. New York, Oxford, Oxford University Press. (ISBN 0-19-512386-7)

Fortna, Virginia Page (2004) Peace Time: Cease-Fire Agreements and the Durability of Peace. Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press. (ISBN 0-691-11512-5)

Logevall, Fredrik (1999) Choosing War: The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation of the War in Vietnam. Berkeley, University of California Press. (ISBN 0-520-22919-3)

In addition to the required texts, there will be some readings available on Blackboard and as course reserves at the library.

Grading:

Your course grade will be based on the following elements:

Classroom Participation (25%). This includes class attendance and participation in class discussions and activities, including in-class written assignments and oral presentations.

Policy Analysis (25%). You are required to attend two lectures on peace or conflict issues on campus or in the greater DC area. (For example, the Woodrow Wilson Center and the United States Institute of Peace have regular workshops and lectures that are widely publicized.) Choose one of the lectures as the subject of your “policy analysis.” Prepare a short paper, around ten pages double spaced, addressing the following questions:

- What is the issue being discussed?
- Who are the various actors interested in this issue?
- What approaches to peace are being utilized?
- Who wins and who loses under the current approach?
- In your opinion, is the speaker advocating the best policy? Why?

One class period near the end of the semester will be used for brief presentations of your policy analyses. You may turn in your Policy Analysis paper any time before November 7th.

Term Paper (25%). A research and analysis paper of about twenty pages, double spaced. The topic should relate to and build upon some segment of the class readings, and should represent a more specialized analysis than provided in the class readings. You must meet with me *at least once, at least one month* before the term paper is due to discuss your topic with me. A one-page outline, and a list of at least three outside sources is due three weeks before the paper is due.

Final Exam (25%) consisting of several short essays on the main concepts of the course.

Weekly Assignments:

Week 1 (29 August): Course Introduction.

An introduction to the goals and framework of the course. An introduction of course participants.

Week 2 (5 September): On War

Readings: Barash, Approaches to Peace, Chapter One (pp. 5-58), and O'Brien article (pp. 80-84).

Michael Howard, "The Causes of War" (from *Turbulent Peace*, pp. 29-38) (will be available on Blackboard.)

Week 3 (12 September): Peace Through War

Reading: Logevall, Choosing War: The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation of War in Vietnam

Week 4 (19 September): Peace Through World Order

Readings: Barash, Approaches to Peace, pp. 106-126

Falk, The Declining World Order, Parts I and II.

Week 5 (26 September): Peace Through Militarized Agreements

Reading: Fortna, Peace Time: Cease-Fire Agreements and the Durability of Peace.

Week 6 (3 October): Peace Through Conflict Resolution

Readings: Complete the online introduction to Conflict Resolution (Units 1 and 2) online at <http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/confres/dislearn/unit1.html> (the link is also available on Blackboard).

Turbulent Peace, pp. 385-481. (Available online on Blackboard.)

- Hampson, “Parent, Midwife, or Accidental Executioner? The Role of Third Parties in Ending Violent Conflict.”
- Kriesberg, “The Growth of the Conflict Resolution Field”
- Touval and Zartman, “International Mediation in the Post-Cold War Era”
- Hopmann “Bargaining and Problem Solving: Two Perspectives on International Negotiation”
- Cohen, “Negotiating Across Cultures”

Week 7 (10 October): Culture and Conflict Resolution

Readings: Avruch, Culture and Conflict Resolution

Week 8 (17 October): Peace Through Non-Violence (Theory)

Readings: Holmes, Non-Violence in Theory and Practice, Sections I-IV

Barash, Approaches to Peace, pp. 184-191

Week 9 (24 October): Peace Through Non-Violence (Practice)

FIELD TRIP TO GHANDI CENTER (if possible)

Readings: Holmes, Non-Violence in Theory and Practice, Sections V-VI

Barash, Approaches to Peace, pp. 191-197.

Week 10 (31 October): Peace Through Personal and Community Transformation

Reading: Lederach, Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies

Week 11 (7 November):

YOU MUST HAVE MET WITH ME TO DISCUSS YOUR TERM PAPER TOPIC AT LEAST ONCE THIS SEMESTER BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

LAST DAY TO TURN IN POLICY ANALYSIS PAPER.

Brief in-class presentations (5 minutes each) of your Policy Analysis papers.

Week 12 (14 November): Building Positive Peace

TERM PAPER OUTLINES DUE.

Readings: Barash, Approaches to Peace, pp. 129-165, “Building Positive Peace”

Something on Peace Education, to be determined.

Week 13 (28 November): Peace Movements, Looking towards the future

Readings: Barash, Approaches to Peace, Chapter 6.

Boulding, Elise (2000). "A New Chance for Human Peaceableness?" Peace and Conflict, 6(3), 193-215. (Available on Blackboard.)

Week 14 (5 December):

TERM PAPERS DUE.

Brief in-class presentations (5 minutes each) of the term paper results.
Summing up and review of course materials in preparation for the final exam.

FINAL EXAM: 12 December