

The International Politics of Peace

POSC 4515
Fordham University – Spring 2015
Fridays, 2:30-5:00pm
Faber Hall Room 668

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PURPOSE and SCOPE _____

International relations scholars and practitioners spend much energy positing the reasons why nations go to war with one another, as well as why domestic political, ethnic, and/or confessional groups engage in violence against each other and the state. These efforts have generated the lion's share of "accumulated knowledge" regarding what moves and motivates actors in the international system to conditions of discord and conflict.

However, we often fail to ask questions about what moves and motivates actors in the international system to create the conditions for durable or sustainable peace. This course attempts to partially fill this void by encouraging students to think critically about the international politics of peace. It will take an interdisciplinary approach that includes intellectual exploration deriving from sociology, philosophy, religion, ethics, law, economics, and politics regarding what moves actors in international politics to nurture, (re)build, manage, enhance, and enforce "peace" in contemporary international politics. Students will synthesize informed analysis and reflection to critique, orally debate, and articulate in writing their ideas about how actors in international politics conceptualize and implement efforts to realize durable and sustainable forms of "peace."

REQUIRED READINGS _____

The required books for this course are available for purchase through the University Bookstore:

- John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)
- David P. Barash, ed. *Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies*, 3rd edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)
- Séverine Autessere, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of international Intervention* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014)

All other readings are available (in PDF or HTML format) on the Blackboard course web site, as an electronic reserve, or through the library's full-text search engines and databases (e.g. Academic Search Complete).

ASSESSMENTS and GRADING

Attendance, Readings and Class Preparation/Participation (30%)

Students are expected to prepare for and attend all class sessions. All requests for excused absences must be made in writing and will be considered in accordance with University policies and guidelines. Students are responsible for missed work. Excessive unexcused absences will result in final grade reduction and/or the possibility of receiving a failing course grade.

Because this course is designed to be a seminar and an EP4, students will be expected to come to each class having completed, in advance, the assigned readings for that session and to be prepared to participate meaningfully in discussion. **Lecturing will be extremely limited, whereas active discussion and debate will constitute the majority of each class session.**

Students will also be responsible for leading discussion during the semester. This aspect of student participation will be discussed in-class. In addition to assigned readings, students are encouraged to stay abreast of current events in international affairs by reading regularly at least one source of international news (e.g. *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Economist*). **Please note** that I have endeavored to balance your workload throughout the semester so as not to overload you during particularly busy periods. However, I would ask that you kindly pay careful attention to all due dates listed on the syllabus for writing assignments, research design proposals, presentations, exams, etc., and plan accordingly in terms of your other classroom and extracurricular activities.

Mid-Term Examination (20%)

A take-home mid-term examination will be administered in class following a documentary screening on **20 February**. Completed exams will be **due within 48 hours**.

Research Project and Presentation (50%)

The capstone assignment in this course is a final research paper and presentation – it represents 40% of the final course grade and will be treated as a semester-long process. Students will write a 7,500-word research paper that poses an analytical question related to one of the sub-themes related to the international politics of peace; adopts a theoretical framework through which to analyze the topic; reviews the literature; develops an appropriate methodology and hypotheses for testing; and forms reasonable conclusions based on the analysis.

This assignment is scaffolded. Students will submit a research design proposal, formulate an annotated bibliography, and develop a draft outline/storyboard of their project early on during the semester. Students are also required, where appropriate to their research design, to collect and analyze the necessary data for their papers (e.g. using World Bank Development Indicators, the Uppsala Conflict Database, the Minorities at Risk database, The Pew Global Attitudes Survey, Country Watch, the Political Risk Yearbook, the Human Security Report, the Human Development Report's Human Development Index).

Individual consultations will be scheduled with students to discuss their initial research design proposals. Guidelines for developing a research design proposal will be posted to the Blackboard web site and discussed in class, and deadlines for these organizational aspects of the research paper are as follows:

- **Research Design Proposal and Bibliography** **Due Date: 27 February**
- **Outline/Storyboard** **Due Date: 13 March**

Three separate working drafts of a student's research paper will be submitted during the semester – each represents a different part of the overall paper:

- **Part 1** will set out/introduce the analytical question/puzzle to be explored and articulate the position being taken by the author to analyze the puzzle. It will also concisely review and assess the parameters of the debate over this issue in the existing literature. This draft should be approximately 1,500 words in length. **Due Date: Friday, 27 March**
- **Part 2** will build upon Part 1 by describing and providing justifications for both the theoretical framework being used to analyze the puzzle and case selection. This draft should be approximately 2,000 words in length. **Due Date: Friday, 10 April**
- **Part 3** will build upon earlier drafts by presenting the central argument, empirical evidence, and analysis. It is in this draft that students will form a clear and coherent argument by articulating a series of analytic claims that are substantiated by evidence and data. This draft should be approximately 3,500 words in length. The remaining 500 or so words should be reserved for concluding remarks, which should be focused on restating the analytic puzzle and main argument, as well as developing several prescriptions for the future. **Due Date: Friday, 24 April**
- **Final versions of all research papers** will be due on the day the final exam is scheduled.

The final sessions of this course will be devoted to individual **research paper presentations**. Guidelines for this aspect of class participation will be discussed in-class.

Students with Disabilities

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disability that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule a meeting to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill - O'Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655 or at Lincoln Center – Room 207, x6282).

COURSE SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS

16 JANUARY

Introduction and Course Overview
Class-led discussion pairings assigned
Research consultation sign-ups

- Mark Twain, "The War Prayer," (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1923)
- Barack Obama, "Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech" 11 December 2009

I. Is war a social inevitability, biological necessity, or bad invention?

23 JANUARY

- Sigmund Freud, "Why War?," from *The Collected Papers*, Volume 5, James Strachey, ed., pp. 273-287, original exchange between Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud written in 1931-1932
- Natalie Angier, "Is War Our Biological Destiny?," *The New York Times*, 11 November 2003
- Robert M. Sapolsky, "A Natural History of Peace," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2006) Vol. 85(1): 104-120
- Margaret Mead, "War is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity," *Asia* Vol. 40(8) (Aug 1940): 402-405
- Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (excerpted), (New York: Macmillan, 1962, 1990)

II. What is "peace" and how do we theorize about it?

30 JANUARY

- Johan Galtung, "Twenty-Five Years of Peace Research: Ten Challenges and Some Responses" *Journal of Peace Research* (1985) Vol. 22(2): 141-158
- Chadwick F. Alger, "Peace Studies at the Crossroads: Where Else?," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (July 1989) Vol. 504: 117-127
- John Sigler, "The Continuing Search for Peace: The Changing Agenda for Peace Studies in the 1990s," *Peace Research* (February 1993) Vol. 25(1): 25-37
- George H. Quester, "International-Security Criticisms of Peace Research," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (July 1989) Vol. 504: 98-105
- Larry J. Fisk, "Seeing Behind Our Certainties in Politics and Peace?," *Peace Research* (May 2001) Vol. 33(1): 113-124

III. What moves us to articulate visions of peace from situations of conflict?

6 FEBRUARY

- Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, chapters 1-4
- Albert Camus, "Neither Victims nor Executioners," *Politics* (July/August 1947), in Barash, ATP
- Thomas Merton, "A Devout Meditation in Memory of Adolph Eichmann," in *Raids on the Unspeakable* (New York: New Directions Publishing, 1966) (excerpted)
- Vaclav Havel, "The Politics of Responsibility," *World Policy Journal* (1995) Vol. 12(3): 81-87
- Kofi Annan, "Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech," (SG/SM/8071), 12 October 2001
- George F. Kennan, "A Christian's View of the Arms Race," *Theology Today* (July 1982)

IV. Is non-violent action an effective means of delivering peace?

13 FEBRUARY

- Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, **chapter 9**
- Mohandas Gandhi, *Ahimsa, or the Way of Non-Violence*, in Barash, ATP
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," in Barash, ATP
- Georg Sørensen, "Utopianism in Peace Research: The Gandhian Heritage," *Journal of Peace Research* (May 1992) Vol. 29(2): 135-144
- Sixth Leaflet of the White Rose Movement, Munich, Germany, 1943
- Film screening *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*

20 FEBRUARY

- **Mid-Term Examination**
Documentary Screening (Exam to be distributed following the screening)
Completed exams due on or before midnight on Sunday, 22 February

V. How and why do international actors implement and manage peace processes?

27 FEBRUARY

- Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, **chapters 5-6**
- Séverine Autessere, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of international Intervention* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), **chapters 2, 3, 5, 7**
- **Research Design Proposal and Bibliography Due (by midnight)**

VI. The nexus between "peace" and "justice" in post-conflict transformations

6 MARCH

- Desmond Tutu, "No Future Without Forgiveness," Barash RTP
- Richard Falk, "On Humane Governance," Barash RTP
- Rosalind Shaw, "Rethinking Truth and Reconciliation Commissions: Lessons from Sierra Leone," Special Report No. 130 (February 2005) U.S. Institute of Peace
- Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, **chapters 11-12**

VII. Looking to the future

13 MARCH

- Séverine Autessere, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of international Intervention* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), **Conclusion**
- Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*, **chapter 15**
- **Research Paper – Outline Due (by midnight)**

20 MARCH – No class (Spring Break)

27 MARCH – No class (Prof. Labonte at ODI/HPG Conference in Africa)

- **Research Paper – Draft Part 1 Draft Due (by midnight)**

3 APRIL – No class (Easter Break)

10 APRIL

- **Research Paper – Part 2 Draft Due (by midnight)**
- Research presentations

17 APRIL

- Research presentations

24 APRIL

- Research presentations
- **Research Paper – Part 3 Draft Due (by midnight)**