

Political Science 242-00: Intro to Conflict and Peace Studies
Fall Semester 2010
(Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 12:15)

Instructor: Brian Mello
Email: bmello@muhlenberg.edu
Course Web Site: available through Moodle

Office: Ettiinger 308 D

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00, and by appointment

Office phone: 484-664-3469

Overview: World War I was supposed to have been “the war to end all wars,” but the remainder of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first have witnessed no let up in human conflict, and the prospect for peace in the world seems as remote as ever. This raises several questions: Is peace worth pursuing? Is it possible to eradicate conflict? Is conflict somehow inherent to human nature? This is an introductory course in the interdisciplinary study of peace and conflict. We will examine the theoretical arguments about if and how the seeds of conflict might be in the nature of man; examine the utility of both violence and non-violence; consider how patriotism and identity might either be the source of peace and solidarity or the catalyst for conflict and enmity; think through just and unjust wars and the spread of militarism; consider how conflicts may be resolved and sustainable peace implemented, and examine several conflicts in the Middle East. Throughout the course, we will utilize feminist theory and feminist approaches to international relations as a means to orient our exploration of these questions. This course fulfills a Human Behavior and Social Institutions, or B, perspective.

Goals: By the end of the semester, students should gain a more thorough awareness about the complex theoretical and practical debates around peace and conflict. As part of this process students should gain both an increased understanding of particular cases of conflict, as well as an increased understanding of the challenges involved in conflict resolution.

Responsibilities: This is an introductory political science course, and I will assume that most students may not generally be familiar with political science, or the sub-field of international relations. While students will not be expected to have any prior knowledge of or interest in the material studied, students taking this course should be willing to engage the material with an open mind. I expect that you fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Students should attend all sections. While I am aware that obligations may cause some sections to be missed, the material we will examine can be complex, and many absences or the failure to keep up with the reading will adversely affect your ability to accomplish the goals of this course.
2. Students shall be prepared for each class by carefully reading all assignments. Prepared students will be able to ask informed questions and perform well on all exams and papers.
3. **Checking your messages on your cell phone, texting in class, or any other disruptive activity with cell phones will result in a participation grade no higher than a D.**

Grading: Grades for this course will be determined as follows:

30% - Five reaction papers. You will choose five days during the course and for each of these days prepare a short reaction to the reading(s). The papers should briefly outline the main points for that day’s reading(s) and then raise and elaborate upon two or three comments, critiques, or points for discussion. These papers are either to be posted to Moodle prior to, or handed in at the start of, the class for which the

readings written about were assigned. These papers should be about 2 typed pages in length, 11-12 point font, and double-spaced.

60% - Guided Essays. There will be three longer essay assignments throughout the quarter; one focused on the first and second parts of the course, one focused on the third and fourth parts of the course, and one focused on the fifth and sixth parts of the course. Essay questions will be based on the course readings, cases, concepts, etc., and will be distributed during the last week of the sections about which the topics focus. The final assignment will be distributed during the last week of class, and will be due during the final exam period. These essays should be about 5-7 typed pages in length, 11-12 point font, and double-spaced.

10%- Participation. This grade will be determined by evaluating your productive contribution to the course, and by your performance on potential in-class quizzes and writing assignments.

Grade Discussions: The discussion of graded material is important both for the clarification of why a particular grade was received and to address concerns and improve writing and analytic skills from one assignment to the next. In order to maximize the usefulness of grade inquiries, discussion of grades on particular papers will follow the following procedure:

Carefully read the comments.

Write a clear and specific statement (typed), highlighting specific questions you would like to address.

Bring your paper and your written concerns to my office and we can discuss them.

If warranted, I will re-read the exam and return it to you during the next section.

If you wish to clarify a particular grade (and not simply to address ways to improve writing and analytic skills), you have until 1 week after a grade has been passed back for you to bring your concerns to me. Because of the rapid progress we will make in the semester, this particular point will be strictly adhered to.

Resources for Disability or Special Needs: Students with disabilities or special needs as documented through the Office of Disability Services who require accommodations for this course must first contact the Academic Resource Center, the Counseling Center, or Student Health Services to develop an Accommodation Plan. Please do this as soon as possible so that they may have a dialogue as to your needs and the recommended accommodations.

Academic Behavior Code: I take academic integrity seriously. You should be familiar with, and at all times adhere to Muhlenberg's Academic Behavior Code. On all work submitted for a grade, you must write and sign the following pledge: "I pledge that I have complied with the Academic Behavior Code in this work." In the case of electronic submissions, you should include this statement along with your initials. <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/mgt/provost/academic/integrity.html>.

Required Texts: These texts can be purchased on-line or at the Muhlenberg College Bookstore.

Al-Ali, Nadjie & Nicola Pratt. *Women & War in the Middle East*. New York: Zed Books, 2009.

Enloe, Cynthia. *Globalization & Militarism: Feminists Make the Link*. Boulder: Rowan & Littlefield, 2007.

Magona, Sindiwe. *Mother to Mother*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1998.

In addition, several readings will be available through Moodle, on-line journal archives (i.e. Jstor), and/or the electronic reserves at Trexler Library.

Course Schedule

Part I: Are the seeds of conflict in the nature of man?

Week 1: Political Theory and Conflict as Human Nature

Assigned Readings:

Thursday, September 2, 2010:

- Hobbes – Chapters X & XIII from *Leviathan* – **See link through Moodle**
- Kittay – Selection from *Love's Labor: Essays on Women, Equality, and Dependency* **pdf available through Moodle**
- DiStefano – Selection from *Configurations of Masculinity* **pdf available through Moodle**

Week 2: Psychology, Biology, Anthropology, and Human Nature

Assigned Readings:

Tuesday, September 7, 2010:

- Freud & Einstein – An exchange on the causes of war – **Link Available through Moodle**

Thursday, September 9, 2010:

- Konner – “Human Nature, Ethnic Violence, and War” – **pdf Available through E-Reserves**

Week 3: Human Nature and International Relations Theory

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, September 14, 2010:

- Mead – “Warfare is Only an Invention—Not a Biological Necessity” – **Link Available through Moodle**
- Kant – “Perpetual Peace” – **Link Available through Moodle**

Thursday, September 16, 2010:

- Jervis – “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” – **PDF Available through Moodle**

Part II: Violence and Nonviolence

Week 4: The Necessity of Violence

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, September 21, 2010:

- Obama – “Remarks by the President at the Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize” – **Link Available through Moodle**

Thursday, September 23, 2010:

- Fanon – Selection from *Wretched of the Earth* – **PDF Available through Moodle**

Week 5: Theory and Practice of Peace and Nonviolence: from Havel to Code Pink

Tuesday, September 28, 2010:

- Havel – Excerpts from “The Power of the Powerless” – **Link Available through Moodle**
- MLK – Letter from a Birmingham Jail – **Link Available through Moodle**

Thursday, September 30, 2010:

- Ani DiFranco – “Self-Evident” – **Link Available through Moodle**
- Melanie Kaye Kantrowitz – “10 Reasons Why We Need More War” – **Link Available through Moodle**
- NOW Statement against the war in Iraq – **Link Available through Moodle**

****First Essay Topic Distributed****

Week 6: Theory and Practice of Peace and Nonviolence: from Havel to Code Pink

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, October 5, 2010:

- Cohn and Ruddick – “A Feminist Ethical Perspective on Weapons of Mass Destruction” – **pdf Available through Moodle**

Thursday, October 7, 2010:

- Arendt – Selections from *On Violence* – **pdf Available through Moodle**

Part III: Patriotism, Identity, Solidarity, and Conflict

Week 7: The politics of us and them

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, October 12, 2010:

- Bakunin – “The Immorality of the State” – **Link Available through Moodle**

Thursday, October 14, 2010:

- Mayerfeld – “The Myth of Benign Group Identity: A Critique of Liberal Nationalism” – **PDF Available through Moodle**
- Gourevitch – Selection from *We Wish to Inform You* – **Available through E-Reserves**

****First Essay Topic Due****

Week 8: Identity and Sexualized Collective Violence

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, October 19, 2010: **No Class Fall Break**

Thursday, October 21, 2010:

- Litwack – Selection from *Hellhounds* – **Available through E-Reserves**

- Carby – “A Strange and Bitter Crop: The Spectacle of Torture” – **PDF Available through Moodle**
- Enloe – *Globalization and Militarism* – **Chapter 5**

Part IV: War & Militarism

Week 9: ‘Come ye Masters of War’

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, October 26, 2010:

- Clausewitz – “War as an Instrument of Policy” – **Available through E-Reserves**
- Schelling – “The Diplomacy of Violence” – **Available through E-Reserves**

Thursday, October 28, 2010:

- Cuomo – “War is not just an event: Reflections on the significance of everyday violence” – **Link Available through Moodle**

Week 10: Life and Economics in a Militarized World

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, November 2, 2010:

- Enloe – *Globalization and Militarism* – **Chapters 1**

Thursday, November 4, 2010:

- Enloe – *Globalization and Militarism* – **Chapters 2**

Week 11: Life and Economics in a Militarized World

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, November 9, 2010:

- Eisenhower – “Farewell Address” – **Link Available through Moodle**
- Enloe – *Globalization and Militarism* – **Chapter 3**

Thursday, November 11, 2010:

- Enloe – *Globalization and Militarism* – **Chapters 4**

Second Essay Topic Distributed

Part V: Pathways to Peace

Week 12: Telling the Fictional Truth, and Reconciliation in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, November 16, 2010:

- Magona – *Mother to Mother* – **Read Through Page 114**

Thursday, November 18, 2010:

- Magona – *Mother to Mother* – **Finish the Text**

****Second Essay Topic Due****

Week 13: Feminist Alternatives to Militarism

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, November 23, 2010:

- Enloe – *Globalization and Militarism* – **Chapters 6 & 8**

Thursday, November 25, 2010: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Part VI: Conflicts in the Middle East

Week 14: Women and War in the Middle East

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, November 30, 2010:

- Al-Ali and Pratt – “Introduction: Women and War in the Middle East” - **In Women & War in the Middle East**

Thursday, December 2, 2010:

- Peterson – “Gendering Informal Economies in Iraq” - **In Women & War in the Middle East**

Week 15: Women and War in the Middle East

****Final Essay Topic Distributed****

Assigned Readings

Tuesday, December 7, 2010:

- Richter-Devroe – “Here, it’s not about conflict resolution- we can only resist: Palestinian Women’s Activism in Conflict Resolution and Non-violent Resistance” - **In Women & War in the Middle East**

Thursday, December 9, 2010:

- Al-Ali and Pratt – “Conclusion: Gendering War and Transnationalism in the Middle East” - **In Women & War in the Middle East**

****Final Essay Topic Due During Exam Period (TBD)****