

Provisional SYLLABUS (as of Aug. 12, 2009) for PACE 310

Survey in Peace and Conflict Studies, Fall 2009

Webster 115; Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Instructor

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Office: Saunders 523

Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or by appointment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to PACE 310, an introductory course on peace and conflict studies. The course is designed to give you a theoretical foundation in the field and enable you to engage in critical thinking on issues related to peace, security, violence (not only physical violence but also structural violence), conflict resolution, justice, and human rights.

I hold a joint appointment in the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and the William S. Richardson School of Law. My primary research interests are international human rights, especially in China and the Asia-Pacific region. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding the course: carolep@hawaii.edu. Telephone: 956-6940 (office) or 342-6441 (cell).

II. TEXTBOOKS and READING ASSIGNMENTS

The required textbook for this course is:

David P. Barash & Charles P. Webel *Peace and Conflict Studies* (Sage, 2nd ed. 2009) (referred to as “Barash and Webel” in the reading assignments). It has been ordered for the university bookstore and is also available from on-line bookstores.

While the reading assignments in the book are the essential “background” reading, you should expect additional reading assignments. You will be asked to read a newspaper on a regular basis so that you can discuss and write about current events in the field of peace studies and conflict resolution.

III. ASSESSMENT

The final grade (which includes “plus and minus” grades) is determined as follows:

- (1) 40% of the grade is determined by the final examination on December 17, 2009 (12:00-2:00 p.m.).

- (2) 40% of the grade is determined by your Journal, which should include a minimum of 26 entries (a little less than two entries per week). Each journal entry should be from one to two pages in length and must be typed (as part of one document titled “Journal for PACE 310, Fall 2009”. Make sure that your full name (as it appears on your transcript) is also typed at the top of the first page. Journal entries should include your reflections on the readings, class discussions, and comments on news articles that you locate in the field. In the beginning of the semester I will give you guidance on how to write journal entries. You will submit your journals for a mid-term grade on November 2, 2009 and for a final grade on December 11, 2009. The combined journal grade (mid-term and final) counts for 30% of your final grade in the course.

- (3) 20% of the grade is determined by your attendance, participation in class discussions, level of preparation for class discussions and the in-class exercises. The goal is to have a lively discussion, one that is respectful of different views and not dominated by the teacher or a few students. Enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer will be rewarded in your class participation grade. I do not expect you to have the “right answer” all the time. I do, however, expect you to demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings.

IV. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- (i) Identify and discuss the core concepts in peace and conflict studies and the different meanings of peace, including “negative peace” and “positive peace” (which includes the promotion of human rights).
- (ii) Identify and discuss the concept of violence (including structural violence) and the definitions of war and armed conflict
- (iii) Critique competing theories regarding the causes of war, armed conflict, and violations of human rights, and their consequences in the modern world.
- (iv) Identify and discuss the basic structure of the United Nations and the “Charter Order”, as well as the main institutions of domestic and international dispute resolution. Conduct simulations of UN procedures aimed at resolving disputes and promoting peace and human rights.
- (v) Reflect on problems of war and peace and construct an argument on a pressing social, economic, or political problem that threatens peace.

- (vi) Develop the habit of daily newspaper reading, so as to gain a greater understanding of current events and be an engaged global citizen.
- (vii) Identify the structure of an argument and distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, so as to critique positions taken in the assigned readings and in class discussions.

V. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE (final schedule will be distributed in the first class on August 25)

Note: the schedule may be amended (sometimes unexpected guest speakers visit the university and I try to work them into the schedule if I think you will benefit).

Part I: Introduction to Peace Studies

Week 1 (Aug 25 & 27): Introduction to the course; the field of peace studies and conflict resolution; the meanings of peace; terminology in the field.

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, Introduction to Part 1 and ch. 1 (pp. 1-12).

Additional assignment: locate and read at least three interesting news articles in the field of peace and conflict resolution (to incorporate into your journals and to discuss in class on Sept. 10).

Aug. 27: **Special Guest Lecture** by Kevin Kavanaugh (on human rights work in Iraq)

Week 2 (Sept 1 and 3): The Meanings of War; Terrorism & Counterterrorism

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 2 and 3.

Week 3 (Sept 8 and 10): The Special Significance of Nuclear Weapons

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 4 and articles on current controversies.

Sept 10: Discuss journal entries for Weeks 1-3 in class, including the news articles that you were assigned to locate and read in Week 1. We will identify certain issues that to follow in the press during the coming semester and draw connections between these issues and the course.

PART II: THE CAUSES OF WAR

Week 4 (Sept 15 and 17): The Individual Level and the Group Level.

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 5 and 6.

Week 5 (Sept 22 and 24): The State Level and the Decision-Making Level.

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 7 and 8.

Week 6 (Sept 29 and Oct 1): The Ideological, Social, and Economic Levels

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 9 and articles on current controversies.
Discuss journal entries for Weeks 4-6 in class.

PART III: BUILDING “NEGATIVE PEACE”

Week 7 (Oct 6 and 8): Introduction to the United Nations and International Law

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 13 and 15.

Week 8 (Oct 13 and 15): Diplomacy, Negotiations and Conflict Resolution; Disarmament and Arms Control.

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 11 and 12.

October 15: special presentation by Professor Brien Hallett on Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

Week 9 (Oct 20 and 22): Introduction to Peace Movements; Ethical and Religious Perspectives

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 10 and 16.

Week 10 (Oct 27 and 29): Peace Through Strength?

Reading Assignment: Barash & Webel, ch. 14 and articles on current controversies. Discuss journal entries in class.

Monday, Nov. 2: Mid-term Journal Submission: email to carolep@hawaii.edu all journal entries for weeks, 1-10; due on Monday, November 2, no later than 10:00 a.m. If you expect a good grade you should have a least 18 entries (a little less than two per week). Each entry should be one to two typed pages in length.

PART IV: BUILDING POSITIVE PEACE

Week 11: (Nov 3 and Nov 5): Introduction to international human rights and the Protection of Civil Liberties

Reading Assignments: Barash & Webel, ch. 17 and assigned materials.

Week 12 (Nov 10 and 12): Economic Well-Being and the Promotion of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Preparation for UN simulation on a current controversy

Reading Assignments: Barash & Webel, ch. 19 and assigned materials.

Week 13 (Nov 17 and 19): Ecological Well-Being; In-class UN simulation

Reading Assignments: Barash & Webel, ch. 18 assigned materials.

Week 14 (Nov 24): National Reconciliation

No Class on Thursday, Nov. 26 (Happy Thanksgiving)

Reading Assignments: Barash & Webel, ch. 20.

Week 15 (Dec. 1 and Dec 3). Introduction to Nonviolence

Reading Assignments: Barash & Webel, ch. 21 and 22.

Week 16 (Dec 8 and Dec. 10) Reserved for catch up and review

Final Journal Submissions: December 11, by 4:00 p.m. Email to carolep@hawaii.edu.

Final Examination: December 17, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Webster 115. The final examination counts for 40% of your grade in the course.

I will distribute some review questions for you to practice on, in advance of the examination. You will be permitted to bring your textbook and your class notes to the examination.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions regarding this provisional syllabus.

Professor Carole Petersen
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