

Perspectives on War, Aggression and Conflict Resolution
PL 259, SC250, TH327
Devlin 112
Instructor: Matthew Mullane

Fall 2009
T-TH 12-1:15
TH 3 Discussion

Purpose of Course: The Faith, Peace, and Justice Program at Boston College sponsors this course as an introduction to the field of Peace Studies. The course reflects the interest of faculty and students in developing an interdisciplinary approach to the study of war and conflict and the study of alternatives to their resolution in contemporary global society.

The course is organized along multidisciplinary lines, with faculty members from various departments responsible for each topic of discussion. This interdisciplinary approach demonstrates the varied and complex perspectives on the causes of war and conflict and attempts to develop out of the resources of these respective disciplines comprehensive, intelligent insights into the resolution of conflicts and the development of creative alternatives to war.

Required texts:

Allman, Mark J, Who Would Jesus Kill?

Bacevich, Andrew J, The New American Militarism
, The Limits of Power

Barash, David P., ed. Approaches to Peace, 2nd edition

Byers, Michael, War Law

Chomsky, Noam, What Uncle Sam Really Wants

Hedges, Chris, War is the Force That Gives Us Meaning

Kirwan, Michael, Discovering Girard

Texts for Book Review

Packer, George, The Assassins Gate

Powers, Samantha, A Problem from Hell

Schell, Jonathan, The Seventh Decade
The Unconquerable World

Stiglitz, Joseph, The Trillion Dollar War

Recommended Texts

Fogarty, War, Peace and the Social Order, esp. Chap. 2 and 3

Holmes, Robert, On War and Morality

Walzer, Michael, Just and Unjust Wars

Required texts and texts for book review are available in the Bookstore under **PL259**. All required and recommended texts are on reserve in O'Neill Library.

Other required readings will be made available as handouts for particular classes. The handouts for all classes are required reading and are material for examination questions and background for class papers and examinations. The instructor reserves the right to require further readings or film/documentary viewing at his discretion.

Required Movies

The Battle of Algiers (highly recommended)

The Corporation

The Fog of War

Shake Hands with the Devil

Why We Fight

South Africa: Truth and Reconciliation

Course Requirements:

1. Two short papers: **Book Review due Oct 6, assigned topic paper due on Nov 10** 5-7 pages each. **(50%) (no extensions, no electronic submissions)**
2. Final research paper, 12-15 pages, one page proposal due **Nov 10**, final paper due **Dec 8. (30%) (no extensions)**
3. Final exam, **Dec 18 @ 9am, (10%)**
4. Required attendance for lectures and active participation in bi-weekly Discussion Group. **(10%)**
5. Required readings (and movies when assigned) prepared in advance for each class and engaged participation in class discussion.
6. Soul

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND DISCUSSION GROUPS: In making up your class schedules, please remember to budget time for the discussion group that will meet **on Thursdays at 3pm**. Our first discussion groups will begin on **Thursday, September 11th**. Half the class will meet at this time on alternate weeks from **Sept 24 to Dec 3** for a total of five meetings for each group. Make sure that you keep the discussion group time open. The discussion will focus on our questions and reflections arising from the required readings and the themes of the lectures. This period will also be an opportunity to view occasional important documentaries bearing on the course.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the standards and guidelines set forth in Boston College's 'Policy on Academic Integrity'. Cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of your work or person, and failure to cite properly other scholar's ideas or work are common violations of academic integrity. For the complete statement of the University's policy consult on the web at www.bc.edu/integrity

Classroom etiquette: Please be on time for class, turn off all cellular phones and personal electronic devices, and bury them deep in your backpacks. Do **not** use computers in the classroom.

Coordinator for Course

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Office Hours: Mon 9-10, 1-4, Tues. 1:30-4:30, Thurs., 1:30-3.

Class Schedule: Perspectives: War, Aggression and Conflict Resolution, Fall 2009

Sept. 8-15 Intro. to Course/Peace Studies	Prof. Mullane (Theology)
Sept. 17 No Class (Classes at noon on Sept 17th are cancelled university wide.)	
Sept. 22-24 Typology of War	Prof. Lowry (Sociology)
Sept. 29-Oct 1 Aggressive Behavior	Prof. Strauss (Biology)
Oct 6 Book Review due in class	
Oct 6-8 Social-Psych Perspectives	Prof. Canavan (Psych.)
Oct. 13-15 Use and Abuse of Propaganda	Prof. Michalczyk (F. Arts)
Oct. 20-22 Religion and Violence	Prof. Daly (Theology)
Oct 27- 29 Christian Ethics and War	Prof. Himes (Theology)
Nov 3-5 Historical Perspectives	Prof. Jacobs (History)
Nov. 10 Proposal for Final Paper due	
Nov 10 2nd short paper due in class	
Nov. 10-12 Domestic Roots of War	Prof. Derber (Sociology)
Nov. 17-19 Democracy and Peacemaking	Prof. Deese (Pol. Sci)
Nov. 24 Principles of Conflict Resolution	Prof. Nielsen (Org. Studies)
Dec 1-3 International Conflict Resolution	Profs. Helmick (Theology)
Dec 8 Final Research Paper Due in class	
Dec 8 Justice and Reconciliation	Prof. Pope (Theology)
Dec 10 Conclusion	Prof. Mullane
Dec 18, Final Exam 9:00am	

War, Aggression, and Conflict Resolution, Fall 09
Reading Schedule

Sept 8-15 Prof. Mullane - Introduction to Course

Readings: Hedges, War is the Force That Gives Us Meaning
Bacevich, The New American Militarism, Chap. 1-3
The Limits of Power, Intro & Chap 1

Sept 22-24 Prof. Lowry – Typology of War

Readings: Barash, pp. 37-46
Forgarty, Chap. 2, “The Social Structure of War and Peace”
Chap. 3 “Explaining War”, cf. Blackboard Vista

Sept 29-Oct 1 Prof. Strauss – Aggression in Animals/Humans

Readings: Barash, pp. 9-30
Movie: “Shake Hands with the Devil” (See on your own)

Oct 6-8 Prof. Canavan - Social-Psychological Perspectives

Readings: Barash, pp.31-36, 66-70
Movie: “The Corporation” (on your own)

Oct 6 Book Review due in class

Oct 13-14 Prof. Michalazyk - Propaganda

Reading Barash, pp. 47-53
New American Militarism, Chap 4
Start: Kirwan, Discovering Girard

Oct 20-22 Prof. Daly – Religion and Violence

Readings: Kirwan, Discovering Girard
New American Militarism, Chap. 5
Barash, Chap 6 (selections)

Oct 27-29 Prof. Himes - Christian Ethics: War, Pacifism, and Nonviolence

Readings: Allman, Who Would Jesus Kill? Chapter 2-5

Nov 3-5 Prof. Jacobs - Historical/Political Perspectives

Readings: Barash, pp. 115-131, 78-98
Movie: “The Fog of War” (see on your own.)

Nov 10 2nd Short Paper Due in class; term paper proposal due

Nov 10-12 Prof. Derber – Domestic Roots of War

Readings: Chomsky, What Uncle Sam Really Wants
New American Militarism, Chap 6 & 7

Nov 17-19 Prof. Deese – Democracy and Peace Making

Readings: Byers, War Law
Barash, pp 99-111
Selected articles, cf. BbV

Nov 24 Prof. Nielsen-Principles of Conflict Resolution

Readings: Barash, pp 71-78
Chap 3, “Building ‘Positive Peace’”

Dec 1-3 Prof. Helmick – International Conflict Resolution

Readings: Barash, Chap 5, “Non-Violence”

Dec 8 **Final Paper due in class**

Dec 8 Prof. Pope -War and Reconciliation

Readings: Barash, pp. 266-281
Movie: South Africa: Beyond a Miracle

Dec 10 Prof. Mullane-Peacemaking is Hard

Readings: New American Militarism, Chap 8
The Limits of Power, Chap 2 & 3
Barash, Chap 7 (selections)

Dec 18 **Final Exam, 9 am.**

“There is no reason good can’t triumph over evil, if only angels will get organized along the lines of the Mafia.” Kurt Vonnegut

A Man Without a Country