

Introduction to Peace Studies

PCST 110-A Manchester College, Spring 2006

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Required Texts:

Barash, David P. and Charles P. Webel. 2002. *Peace and Conflict Studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Dull, Ralph. 2004. *Nonviolence is Not For Wimps*. Xlibris Corp. (www.exlibris.com).

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the relatively young, interdisciplinary field of Peace Studies. Our primary goal will be to provide a general survey of major themes, with a special emphasis on international peace and justice concerns. We will also discuss various aspects of interpersonal and intergroup conflict studies, as well as religious and philosophical bases of peacemaking. Two general themes define the focus of our investigation: 1) international norms and institutions against war—or what is referred to as “negative peace;” and 2) efforts to eliminate conditions that give rise to war and violence—or what is referred to as “positive peace.” A third and increasingly important sub-field pertains to alternative means of transforming international conflicts. Such efforts are intended to enable participants to apply traditions and methods from within their culture to make peace through peaceful means. At its core, Peace Studies is: 1) multidisciplinary; 2) values oriented; 3) committed to preventing overt as well as less visible forms of violence; and 4) dedicated to the creative and constructive transformation of human conflict.

Course Objectives: After completing this course you will be better able to understand and critically analyze basic theories and approaches to Peace Studies; apply these concepts to contemporary international and intergroup conflict settings; and articulate these understandings through written and oral presentations.

Requirements

Attendance/Participation: All reading assignments are expected to be completed *prior* to class on the designated day. This practice will enable you to remain an active and informed participant in class discussions, and to excel in quizzes and examinations. You are also expected to actively participate in class debate/discussion sessions. (100 points).

Quizzes: There will be brief, randomly conducted quizzes at the beginning or end of many class sessions based on assigned readings and/or class discussions. Missed quizzes can be made up in Prof. McElwee’s office the following day or at the beginning of the

next class session. *Please note:* It is your responsibility to make these arrangements with the instructor. (50 points)

Examinations: There will be five non-cumulative unit exams over the assigned readings and class discussions. The fifth exam will be administered during Finals Week. If you must be absent for an exam due to an excused absence, you must make-up the exam before the next class session or else forfeit these points. As with quizzes, it is your responsibility to make these arrangements with Prof. McElwee. (250 points/50 per exam)

Debates and Small Group Reports: At various times throughout the semester, we will divide into debate and/or discussion teams for the purpose of more critically analyzing and discussing key questions. You and your team will be evaluated based on the strength of your argument, the cohesiveness of your presentation, and your persuasiveness. You will earn class participation points by demonstrating command of the topic and by participating in the debate or group discussion. (100 points)

Research Paper: You are expected to submit a brief (5-7 page) research paper on the following topic: *Discuss alternatives to defining security in strictly military terms.* Please remember that this is a research paper. As such your paper must include basics such as page numbering, proper citations of all sources, and be composed in one of the approved style guides as described in Diane Hacker's book: *A Writer's Reference*, 5th ed., 2003 (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's). Your paper is due at the beginning of class on Friday, May 5. *Please note:* late papers will not be accepted. (100 points)

Academic honesty: All written assignments must be your original work. The *College Catalog* defines plagiarism as "the presentation of information (written or oral) as one's own when in reality some or all of the information was derived from some other source" (p. 22). Plagiarism will result in failure of an assignment or of the course. For more information see pages 22-23 of the 2005-2006 *College Catalog*.

Turnitin.com: To encourage original work, your papers must be submitted electronically through the website: Turnitin.com. You must also submit a hard copy of your papers to the instructors by the assigned due date. The Turnitin.com ID number for this class is 1458259, and our class enrollment password is ips-06. Prior to submitting your paper through Turnitin.com, you will need to visit the site (www.turnitin.com) and create a user profile. If you have already created a Turnitin user profile, you simply need to login and enroll in this class site. *Please note:* your research paper, and any extra credit papers you may elect to submit, must be submitted by the assigned due date to the instructors (hard copy) and electronically through Turnitin.com.

Extra Credit Opportunities If you choose, you may write up to five 1-2 page essays for extra credit based the book by Noam Chomsky: *Imperial Ambitions: Conversations on a Post 9/11 World, Interviews with David Barsamian* (2005. New York, NY: Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Co.). The book is available on-line and a copy of the book is also on reserve in the library. Select any of the chapters from the Chomsky book and demonstrate in your essay your critical analytical skills regarding the central thesis put

forward by the author. Explain any new insights you gained from the book and state why you agree or disagree with the author's overall assessment of the given issues. As with your research paper, your extra credit essays should be written in an approved writing style with proper source documentation, and should be submitted electronically through Turn-it-in.com. You may submit extra credit essays up to and including our last class session on May 12. Each individual extra credit essay is worth a maximum of ten points. A total of 50 extra credit points can be added to your grade for five extra credit essays.

Grading: The 600 point total converts to the following grade scale:

540-600 points = A

480-539 points = B

420-479 points = C

360-419 points = D

359 – and below = F

Schedule of Assigned Readings, Papers, and Exams

Please note: In addition to the below, occasional hand-outs will be provided throughout the semester to supplement these reading assignments.

Feb 1	Introductions, syllabus review, short clip from <i>Faces of the Enemy</i>
Feb 3	Barash and Webel (hereafter abbreviated B&W) Chapter 1, pp. 1-26
Feb 6	B&W Chapter 2, pp. 28-41
Feb 8	B&W Chapter 2, pp. 41-55
Feb 10	B&W Chapter 3, pp. 56-72
Feb 13	B&W, Chapter 3, pp. 72-84
Feb 15	B&W, Chapter 4, pp. 85-109
Feb 17	Exam 1
Feb 20	B&W Intro Part II., pp. 113-118; and Chapter 5, pp. 119-129
Feb 22	B&W Chapter 5, pp. 129-143
Feb 24	B&W Chapter 6, pp. 145-164
Feb 27	B&W Chapter 6, pp. 165-183
March 1	B&W Chapter 7, pp. 185-205
March 3	B&W Chapter 8, pp. 207-231
March 6	B&W Chapter 9, pp. 233-243

March 8	B&W Chapter 9, pp. 243-260
March 10	Exam 2
March 13	Intro Part III, pp. 263-265; and Chapter 10, pp. 267-290
March 15	B&W Chapter 11, pp. 291-314
March 17	B&W Chapter 12, pp. 315-329
March 20-24	Spring Break
March 27	B&W Chapter 12, pp. 329-343
March 29	B&W Chapter 13, pp. 344-357
March 31	B&W Chapter 13, pp. 357-371
April 3	Exam 3
April 5	B&W Chapter 14, pp. 372-386
April 7	B&W Chapter 15, pp. 387-404 (Midwest Peace Summit April 7-9)
April 10	B&W Chapter 16, pp. 405-425
April 12	Intro Part IV, pp. 427-429; and Chapter 17, pp. 431-439
April 14	(Good Friday, class dismissed)
April 17	B&W Chapter 17, pp. 439-459
April 19	B&W Chapter 18, pp. 460-484
April 21	Exam 4
April 23	International Fair
April 24-29	Peace Week
April 24	B&W Chapter 19, pp. 485-497
April 26	B&W Chapter 19, pp. 498-511
April 28	B&W Chapter 20, pp. 512-535
May 1	B&W Chapter 21, pp. 537-547
May 3	<i>Nonviolence is Not For Wimps</i> , pp. 7-38
May 5	<i>Nonviolence is Not For Wimps</i> , pp. 39-60
May 8	<i>Nonviolence is Not For Wimps</i> , pp. 61-88
May 10	<i>Nonviolence is Not For Wimps</i> , pp. 89-121
May 12	<i>Nonviolence is Not For Wimps</i> , pp. 122-158
Finals Week	Exam 5