

Course Syllabus
SCHG 399-01 PEACE MOVEMENTS AND NONVIOLENCE
Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
Spring 2011

Location: HUM 122 (for discussion meetings)
and Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library (for lectures)

Instructor: Dr. Avery Kolers
Office: HUM 314
Hours: T/R 12:30 – 2:00
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This course is built around the spring, 2011 Social Change Lecture Series, which focuses on the theme “Peace Movements and Nonviolence.” During the semester, you will attend the four lectures in the series, do a preparatory reading for each lecture, participate in a discussion following the lecture, and complete short writing assignments based on the lectures and readings. This is one of the capstone courses in the Social Change minor (the other is SCHG 401 Community Internship), and as such it is required for SCHG minors. The course is, however, open to anyone. Each year this course has a different general topic, and features speakers from the University community and beyond. You may repeat this course for credit when the topic changes. The course will next be offered, with a different topic, in **spring 2012** with the topic “Green Economics”.

The course is organized around a series of public lectures to be held in the Chao Auditorium. Other weeks we will meet in HUM 122 for discussion.

Your Obligations

1. Attendance;
2. Do all assigned readings, including both the required text and the readings (if any) associated with each lecture;
3. Come to each lecture prepared with at least three **typed** questions based on the readings. You are not required (though you are of course permitted) to ask these questions aloud. You should hand me a copy of these questions after the lecture.
4. The week after each lecture, submit a short essay (3 pages or so) that takes the form of a response to the content or argument of the lecture. One fruitful strategy for developing such a response paper is to think carefully about any empirical or normative claims the speaker makes, and assess them in light of your own views or research on the matter. You should be careful not to just opine “agreed!” or “disagreed!” but to give reasons and/or evidence for your views.
5. On the last day of this class, **Thursday, April 21 at 3:00 p.m.**, submit a short essay (5 or so pages) on an issue of interest to you regarding peace movements & nonviolence. This may be an expansion or distillation of some issues that you discussed in one or more of (4) above. You might want to discuss your topic with me in advance. We will discuss these papers on that day.

On submitting assignments

All written work should be typed and double-spaced with normal margins & font (usually 1-inch margins and 12-point font). You may submit all work except (3) above online. If you do so, you should send it as an email attachment **from Blackboard or from your U of L email**. If using email, **always cc yourself** to ensure that attachments are indeed attached, and keep the email in your “sent mail” folder at least until the end of the semester. If there is any confusion about how many assignments, etc., you have submitted, I will need to see not only the assignment itself but the date stamp on your email. This is good advice for those who hand things in on paper, too: always keep a copy, and keep the assignment even after I return it.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the relevant date, except for (3) above, which are due at the end of class.

Assessment:

- Attendance (10%): Attendance at every lecture and every discussion meeting listed below is required. I will deduct one point for each unexcused absence from discussion, 2 points for each unexcused absence from a lecture. If you get down to zero I will reduce your final grade by 1/3 of a grade per further absence.
- Discussion (10%): At discussion meetings you should come prepared to talk and should contribute to discussion without dominating it; listen respectfully to your peers and also speak your piece.
- 3 Questions (20%): Questions will be evaluated out of 5 points each time: one point for each question, and two points left over for quality.
- Short essays (30%) Each essay is to be graded out of 10.
- Final essay (30%) Your essay should reflect familiarity and engagement with the readings from the entire semester and should also bring out some serious critical reflection of your own. Perhaps five pages won't be enough; you should attend more to quality than quantity.

Required Readings

There is one required textbook, available at the local bookstores:

David Cortright, *Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas* (Cambridge University Press).

Other required readings may accompany specific lectures and will be made available when needed. If you want to get them in advance, let me know & I'll try to accommodate you.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Louisville is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require accommodation to participate and complete requirements for this class, notify me immediately and contact the Disability Resource Center (Robbins Hall, 852-6938) for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.

Schedule

*Note if there is no entry for a given week, we do not meet that week.

- 1/13 Introduction
- 1/27 Lecture: David Cortright, University of Notre Dame, "The Power of Nonviolence"
Reading: Cortright, chaps. 1, 10, 16*
- 2/3 Discussion of Cortright lecture
Short essay on Cortright due
- 2/17 Lecture: Russ Vandenbroucke, Theatre Arts, "Conscientious Objection Beyond War and the Draft"
Readings: Vandenbroucke readings available on Blackboard, AND
Cortright, chap. 8
- 2/24 Discussion of Vandenbroucke lecture
Short essay on Vandenbroucke due
- 3/24 Lecture: Panel discussion on "Building and Sustaining a Peace Movement, from Vietnam to Iraq to Louisville and Beyond"
Reading: Cortright, chaps. 13-14
- 3/31 Discussion of panel
Short essay on panel due
- 4/7 Lecture: Barbara Burns, Psychology, "Investigating the Roots of Peace and Compassion: Research on Children's Self Regulation"
Reading: TBA*
- 4/14 Discussion of Burns lecture
Short essay on Burns due
- 4/21 Discussion of peace movements & nonviolence
Final essay due by 3:00 p.m.

* 3 questions due at end of class