Course description:
This course explores theories and cases in peace and justice studies. We begin with King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and an in-depth examination of two main ethical theories – deontological and utilitarian, and two theories of political ethics – idealism and realism. These frameworks are applied to several cases in international ethics, with a focus on war and peace. We then turn to Mahatma Gandhi, a key figure in peace and justice studies, and his theory of satyagraha. The course concludes with an application of these theories to case studies in democracy and human rights. Films will be used to deepen students understanding of theories and cases. (Meets the “Moral Life” requirement.)

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus if necessary.

Student learning outcomes:
+ Develop ability to compare, contrast, and integrate theoretical frameworks and apply them to contemporary issues;
+ Strengthen interdisciplinary understanding;
+ Enhance capacity for moral discernment, criticism and argument.

Course Texts:
*Gandhi’s Way: A Handbook of Conflict Resolution, Updated*, Juergensmeyer
*Mohandes Gandhi: Essential Writings*
Course Hand-outs:
“Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” King
*Just Peacemaking*, Introduction, Stassen
*The Problem from Hell* (selected chapters), Powers

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance and participation 5%
2. Case study briefs (10 at 2% each) 20%
3. Critical Analysis Paper on Gandhi 15%
4. Mid-term Examination 25%
5. Hearing on Preemptive War & Jihad 10%
6. Research paper 25%
**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required in this class. More than two unexcused absence will result in a lower grade, as will a pattern of tardiness or leaving early. You are expected to come to class prepared; this means having done the reading and ready to participate in discussion.

**Case Studies:** Students will prepare ten weekly case summaries and discussions, choosing from cases in our texts. Each is to be two pages, and is due the day the case is to be discussed in class. These will not be accepted after the due date.

**Mid-term examination:** on theoretical frameworks, definitions and concepts – objective and essay.

**Hearing on Preemptive War & Jihad.** This hearing will be a simulation of a United Nations Security Council meeting, with teams representing various governmental and non-governmental organizations giving testimony on whether preemptive war and/or jihad should be declared crimes against humanity. Each team will have a two page typewritten brief of their position, drawing on prior readings as well as the assigned readings.

Criteria for evaluation: 1) accuracy of presentation of perspective, 2) thoughtfulness of position

**Critical Analysis Paper on Gandhi:** This five page paper (double-spaced, type-written) is to critically analyze Gandhi’s praxis of Satyagraha. Briefly present a brief overview, followed by a more in-depth discussion of strengths and weaknesses, in your judgment.

Criteria for evaluation: 1) accuracy and relevance of overview, 2) insightful analysis.

**Research Paper:** This eight-to-ten page paper (double-spaced, type-written) is to focus on a conflict – interpersonal, intergroup, or international – chosen in consultation with the professor. After researching important dimensions of the conflict, students will present and defend a possible solution – using theoretical frameworks from our course texts and additional research, as needed.

Criteria for evaluation: 1) accuracy and clarity of factual information, 2) comprehensive and insightful analysis of the conflict and proposed solution, and 3) clarity and appropriateness of theoretical framework(s) and references.

**Course Schedule**

**Theories of Peace and Justice**
*(Jan. 14 – Feb. 1)*

1/15: Introduction to Course  
View “No Easy Walk”

1/17: King and Nonviolence  
Read King, *Letter from a Birmingham Jai*

1/22: Morality and Foreign Policy  
Read Amstutz 7-27, Case 1-1*

1/24: Ethical Decision Making  
Read Amstutz 28-44

1/29: Ethical Traditions: Realism  
Read Amstutz 45-54, Case 3-1*

1/31: Ethical Traditions: Idealism  
Read Amstutz 54-61, Case 3-2*
**Issues of Peace and War**  
(Feb. 4-29)

2/5: Ethics of Force  
Read Amstutz 104-25, Cases 6-1 OR 6-2*

2/7: Just Peacemaking  
Read Stassen (Hand-out)

2/12: Mid-term examination

2/14: Ethics of Intervention  
Read Amstutz 126-49, Cases 7-1 OR 2 OR 3*

2/19: Ethics of Unconventional Operations  
Read Amstutz 150-73, Cases 8-1 OR 2*

2/21: Preventive War  
Internet Readings

2/26: Jihad  
Internet Readings

2/28: Hearing on preemptive war and jihad

**Gandhi’s Way – Satyagraha**  
(March 10-April 4)

3/11: Apostle of Nonviolence  
Read Gandhi, 17-48

3/13: Gandhi on Nonviolence  
Read Gandhi, 94-127

3/18: The Gandhian Fight  
Read Juergensmeyer, 3-32; Gandhi 49-68

3/20: Cont’d  
Read Juergensmeyer, 33-64; 69-82

3/25: Case Studies  
Read Juergensmeyer, 67-91; Gandhi, 83-93

3/27: Cont’d  
Read Juergensmeyer, 92-108; Gandhi, 159-69

4/1: Small Quarrels with Gandhi  
Read Juergensmeyer, 111-25; Gandhi 185-91

4/3: Cont’d  
Read Juergensmeyer, 126-59: 143-48

**Democracy and Human Rights**  
(April 7 - April 26)

4/8: Genocide and Human Rights  
Gandhian Critical Analysis Paper due.

4/10: Ethics of Human Rights  
Read Amstutz, 82-103, Case 5-2*

4/15: Ethics of Economic Sanctions  
Read Amstutz, 174-94, Cases 9-1 OR 2 OR 3*

4/17: Ethics of Political Reconciliation  
Read Amstutz, 62-81, Cases 4-1 OR 2*

4/22: Custom, Law, and Religion

4/24: Violence Against Women  
Case Study (Hand-out)*

Research paper due (at time of final examination)