



What is Peace?

A course at Moravian College sponsored by
National Endowment of the Humanities Enduring Questions Program

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A new course at Moravian College

Sponsored by the National Endowment of Humanities
to be offered for the first time in spring 2015.

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- What do you think peace is? What does it entail?
- Can war be just? If so, under what conditions?
- Are humans different from other animals with respect to violence, war and peace?
- Is peace possible?
- What is worth dying for? Living for?

Do the ends that we seek (i.e., peace) have to cohere with the means that we use (i.e. violence and war)?
Are militarization and military buildup in nations such as the United States compatible with understandings and practices of peace?

WHAT IS PEACE?

How do you think you would answer this question? Do you think it is an important question to consider as part of your education at Moravian College?

Some students may respond that peace is simply an absence of conflict or war, or a state of feeling content and tranquil. However, pushed to think further, they begin to realize that these are superficial responses that generate even more questions. How do we define peace? Why are there so many different visions of peace? Is peace realistic in a world filled with so much violence and war? What are the greatest challenges to achieving peace? Is peace sustainable? What role do social, political and economic conditions play in our understanding of peace? Are we obligated to pursue peace? What is inner peace, and how is it related to peace in the world?

FOR STUDENTS: What you will do in this course

We will begin the semester with a trip to a local peace center, such as Brandywine Peace Community, to help build cohesion in our learning community, and to introduce students to alternative visions and life practices. In class we will strongly encourage group discussions as an essential part of the course, and emphasize the importance of longer individual writing projects through which students will engage, summarize, evaluate and respond imaginatively to the many conceptions of peace they encounter throughout the semester. Students' final projects will be to formulate their own answer to the question of the course, "what is peace?"

REL/PHI 290

Linc

Also satisfies requirements in the religion and philosophy depts.