

WET 02

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
RE 480 - Peace After 9/11, Winter Interim 2001-02
Instructor: Larry Jones
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Office hours by appointment and/or phone and/or e-mail

Course Description: This course is specifically designed to address, from religious and theological perspectives, the issue of how to achieve peace in this period since the attacks of September 11, 2001. Students will examine various perspectives on peace making, ranging from theories of non-violence to theories of just war, as well as search for an understanding of the root causes of this "new kind of war."

GOAL: For students individually and in dialogue with each other and the instructor to critically evaluate various approaches to the furtherance of world peace within the context of the present historical situation and to consider differing religious and theological ways of understanding war and peace.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To deepen our understanding of the causes of the current crisis to which the attacks of 9/11/01 gave rise.
2. To develop an appreciation of the contributions of diverse schools of religious as well as secular thought about peace.
3. To become intellectually and morally awakened to the urgency of the issue of peace at this time such that we might each make a larger personal contribution toward that end.
4. To develop a clearer understanding of how to measure good and evil in a complex world.
5. To understand the five characteristics of Marianist educational philosophy and apply them to this course
6. To improve our abilities to read, think, discuss and write skillfully.
7. To actively participate in making this class both challenging and interesting.
8. To be able to be challenged by ideas which differ from our own and yet to respect and care about those who hold them.
9. To have a learning experience which is both challenging and fun.

REQUIREMENTS

1. An inquisitive yet open mind and a sense of humor.
2. Attendance at and active participation in all class sessions, including taking notes.
3. Completion of all reading assignments.
4. A one page commentary on each reading assignment.
5. Completion of a 6 - 8 page term paper. At Session #5 you will be asked to turn in a one paragraph statement and to report briefly to the class on your plan for your paper, which is due on last day.
6. Mid-term take home essay exam (due session #6) focusing on information covered in sessions 1-5 and, final take home essay exam focusing on information covered in sessions 6-9 (due session #10).

READINGS: Text: *A Peace Reader*, edited by Joseph J. Fahery and Richard Armstrong
 Various handouts

GRADING: 20% class attendance (*unavoidable absences may be made up after consultation with instructor initiated by student*) and participation (*defined by quality, not quantity*)
 20% reading assignment commentaries
 20% term paper (see next page for particulars)
 20% mid-term take home exam, due session #6
 20% final take home exam, due session #10

A = 90 - 100%	D = 60 - 70%
B = 80 - 90%	F = anything below 60%
C = 70 - 80%	I = incomplete

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the content of the course depending on the needs of the class.

Session 1 - 12/14/01

Introductions and syllabus review

In search of a biblical paradigm for an aggrieved nation.
Presentation and discussion.

VIDEO: 9.11 This tape, made just days after September 11, listens to the voices of New York City in mourning, a city coming to terms with the aftermath of events of that day and the potential violence of a protracted war.

Session 2: - 1/15/01 *Does the demand for justice mean a cry for war?*

Text readings: pp. 5-19, 163-167, 455, 466-472

VIDEO: *Turning Tragedy into War* This show challenges the mainstream media's reportage on the recent events while providing a background of the U.S. involvement in the Middle East.

Discussion on the theology of politics and the politics of theology.
Were Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson right?
The roots of hatred

Liberation theology and the path to peace
Presentation and discussion

Session 3: - 12/18/01 *Patriotism, Non-violence and Peace.*

Text readings: pp. 80-85, 171-175, 213-217, 225-229, 440, 459

VIDEOS: *Blood Makes the Grass Grow*
The Vieques Conflict

GUEST SPEAKER: Kyle Kajahito, American Friends Service Committee
Mr. Kajahiro will speak about conscientious objectors as well as consensus building for a reasoned response to war

Session 4: - 12/19/01 *The Christian Just War Theory and Its Alternatives*

Text readings: review pp. 82-84 (just war theory), pp. 333-344

Do the ideas of St. Augustine and St. Aquinas apply in today's situation?
Presentation and Discussion

VIDEO: *Lessons from past U.S. approaches to terrorism* PBS Frontline program with Bill Moyers from late September 2001

Discussion of alternative approaches to the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01.

Session 5: - 12/21/01 *The role of Islam in the current conflict*

Text readings: pp. 370-376, 391-403, 460-463

VIDEO: *Fanning the Flames of History*

Are we in a battle between the Islamic world and the west?

Dealing with racist responses to 9/11.

The Muslim view of war and peace.

GUEST SPEAKER: Rashid Abdullah from the Muslim Association of Hawaii

Session 6: - 12/22/01 *Talking peace in days of kairos (time of crisis and opportunity)*

Text readings: pp. 258-266, 315-329

VIDEO: *Dissent in a Time of Crisis*, Nightline 11/2/01

A conflict resolution workshop led by mediation specialist, Dr. Peter S. Adler

The role of international law and the U.N.

Presentation and discussion

Session 7: - 12/27/01 *Nukes, terror and homeland security*

Text readings: pp. 218-222, 255-257, 420-430

VIDEO: *The Legacy of Hiroshima*

Discussion of the lessons from Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki and the dangers of nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists and those fighting terrorists

Religious faith in a nuclear age

Presentation and discussion

Discussion: *The new Patriot-USA law*

Session 8: - 12/29/01 *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth ..." (IN earth?)*

Text readings: pp. 107-112, 129-137

Oil and the economics of this war

Presentation and discussion

VIDEO: *The Heat is On*

The theology of the environment

Presentation and discussion on the need to change our dependence on fossil fuels and be faithful stewards of creation

Session 9: - 1/3/02 *A Hawaiian-Christian approach to peace*

Text readings: p. 61-75

VIDEO: *The Tribunal or Act of War*

GUEST SPEAKER: The Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson, Executive Director, Hawaii Ecumenical Coalition

Discussion of Hawaii and the U.S. military

Session 10: - 1/5/02

Discussion and sum up based on reports from term papers

Course evaluation