PHIL 494Z: WAR & PEACE

Spring 2016
CRN: 20102
January 14 to May 13, 2016

Tim Weldon, Ph.D.
Office: S319
Phone: 815-740-3451
E-mail: tweldon@stfrancis.edu (please use this email for all contact with the instructor)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"War is hell itself"
William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-91)

"Lord make me an instrument of your peace"
St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

“Only the dead have seen the end of war”
Plato (427-347 BC)

This course is an introduction to understanding the stark contrast between the realities of war and peace within the contemporary experience. This survey course will discuss the basic historical and situational problems, ethical and moral concepts, proponents and advocates, impediments and obstacles, objectives, and the overall existential vocabulary of the philosophies of war and peace. Issues treated may include the existence of God, the dignity of the human person, the meaning of life, understanding death, human freedom, good and evil, human solidarity, the concept of justice, and Catholic Just War Tradition.
**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

“Peace is the only battle worth waging”
Albert Camus (1913-60)

The student is expected to be able to identify and understand basic philosophical problems of war and the meaning of peace; recognize major philosophical schools/persons of historical and contemporary thought/thinkers on war and peace; appreciate the aim and scope of methods of philosophical inquiry into war and peace; perceive the unity within philosophical reflection, faith and reason in understanding war and peace; and develop a humble respect for the fundamental truths about the dignity of the sanctity of human life, the dignity of the human person and the meaning of human existence.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

*The Future of Power.* Joseph S. Nye, Jr

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

*Note: Recommended reading is suggested but not required*

*The Lesser Evil: Politics in an Age of Terror.* Michael Ignatieff  
*The Art of War.* Sun Tzu  
*The Quiet American.* Graham Greene (Penguin Classics)

Please note that I will distribute required, selected readings to the class throughout the semester.
Class preparation

NOTE: Reading of this syllabus is mandatory!

Reading assignments are to be found in the Course Outline. Completion of these assignments is crucial to success in this course. A careful, in-depth reading of the introduction to this course, each chapter introduction and each assignment (i.e., assigned chapters) is a justified expectation.

Participation in this course is mandatory. PLEASE remember to keep track of your participation throughout the course. Participation in this course means reading each chapter, the assigned "Question for Discussion" for each chapter (see course outline in this syllabus) and (1) offering online commentary of at least SIX sentences in response to the discussion question AND citing at least two quotes from the current chapter for argument (with page numbers in parentheses) (2) responding to at least FIVE other responses (in separate postings) from classmates (length of response should again be at least six sentences; copy & pasting from other sites/students or any unreferenced work from formal sources will result in a “0” participation grade. Again, this two-step process applies for each chapter and must be completed (6 posts total) during the specific dates of the chapter assignment. PLEASE pay attention to the dates of the assigned chapters as participation for each chapter opens and closes according to the assigned dates. Participation that is attempted before or after the start and end date for any chapter will NOT be counted.

As participation is monitored, please do not attempt early/late posting.

ALSO: The instructor cannot re-open discussions
NOTE: SENTENCES from the text used for argument support cannot be repeated by other students. They can be commented upon in response but again, not repeated.

Please know that instructor-student online exchanges and instructor participation will, barring travel, medical/family emergency, or computer/system difficulty, follow these liberal guidelines:

- Please introduce yourself to the class within 24 hrs of the course opening
- It is a reasonable expectation that the Instructor will respond within 48 hours of message posting to group and individual e-mail (where appropriate, and again, barring travel, emergencies, etc.)
- It is a reasonable expectation that the student should respond to the instructor and other students within 48 hours of a message posting (where appropriate, and again, barring emergencies, etc.)
- Instructor hours of availability are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- ELEVENTH HOUR policy: last minute participation from the student (participation within the final hours of the assigned chapters) may owing to the very late input, not receive instructor feedback. Repeated “eleventh hour participation”, owing to a practiced lack of timeliness, may result in a lower final grade.
- Please know that positive affirmation of fellow students is always encouraged in posting; however, excessive congratulation or affirmation beyond a single sentence, i.e., multiple exclamations of joy at a single posting, e.g. “Awesome incisiveness, you nonpareil!” or “Otherworldly cogency!” will no count as a sentence to be tallied

Note: Participation conduct must be in accordance with accepted norms of politeness, i.e., the refraining from swearing, insults of any kind, innuendo, screeds, blanket use of lower case letters, etc. Please remember that we are in a university setting. Please know as well that I reserve the right to treat any inappropriate behavior with immediate invocation of USF policy on misconduct.

A Midterm exam will be given over chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4. The possible 60 question midterm can be taken after the completion of chapter four and will be graded online. There is a one hour time limit to the Midterm.

A Final exam will be given over chapters 5, 6 (plus Appendix) and in Allman and in Nye Parts I, II, and III. The possible 60 question Final can be taken after the completion of Nye Part III (or set date) and will be graded automatically. There is a one hour time limit to the Final exam.

Reflection Essay (Yes, this is mandatory!)  
A reflection essay worth 15% of the course grade is due ONLY during the allotted time for the Final Exam. The paper is to be submitted to CANVAS as a WORD document only 8-10 full pages in length minimum (typed, double space, 1 inch margins for each page: MLA format—M UST
include page numbers or will not be graded) will be your choice of ONE of the following topics for topics 1, 2, 3; use our text as a reference):

1. Choose any current conflict (ongoing 2015) and using the title of our Allman book and the tenets of Just War Theory (JWT) please answer this question: Who would Jesus Kill? Please introduce the situation behind the conflict (history, actors, third parties, etc.) in the first part of your paper and then use the Allman text for support, then add at least three other sources to support your argument.

2. Please assume the person, philosophy and beliefs of Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Using the "Peace Prayer of St. Francis," please play the role of peacemaker to any current (2015) and ongoing armed conflict. Examine and present lines from the prayer to support your argument. Please introduce the actual situation behind the conflict (history, actors, third parties, etc.) and then use the Allman text plus three other sources to resolve the conflict peacefully—or not. As a requirement, please use the historical episode of Francis of Assisi’s involvement in the Fifth Crusade (1217-24) to support your argument.

3. Please supply a critical examination of Nye’s *The Future of Power*. Using the text, please agree with any single point of Nye’s on: Military Power, Economic Power, Soft Power, and Smart Power and then disagree with a single point of Nye’s on each of the aforementioned. Please use at least one current (2015), ongoing armed conflict as an example to aid in the support of your argument.

PLEASE KNOW that the due date for the Reflection Essay is Final.

**Video Reflection Essays**

For each assigned chapter in the Allman and Nye books, please access the provided links to the given video in the opening of each of the chapter discussions. Please submit to CANVAS, as a Word document, a one page reflection on viewed video. Please provide your informed opinion of the video—not a summary of its contents. Please comment on the theme of the video, your agreement or disagreement with what was said and shown and how the course texts and discussion might support your opinions.

Essay is due at the date given for the close of the chapter discussion. At final tally, 9 essays will be completed.

**Contemporary Situation Essays**
Please compose a two page reflection essay on one (only one) contemporary situation (current event) article given post-midterm and in the beginning of the chapter discussions. In your reflection, please do not give a summary of the article, rather, give your informed opinion on the prospects for peace in the situation and recommend at least one action that might be taken to ensure a peaceful solution to the conflict.
Please submit to CANVAS in a WORD document. Essay is due at the date given for the close of the chapter discussion. At final tally, 4 essays will be completed.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Mother Theresa

Extra credit (optional)

Please know that you may earn up to 5% of extra credit towards your FINAL COURSE GRADE for at least a satisfactory completion of the following. Choose ONE (A or B)

A) Please make a movie trailer (5 minutes or less) showcasing the ultimate, archetypal movie promoting world peace and submit it to me (tweldon@stfrancis.edu) during the dates for our Final Exam (4/30 to 5/6). Please be creative within the bounds of decency concerning expression (fashion, background scenes, location, setting, etc.), language, subject matter, persons portrayed, and all acting. Please know that the objectionable or what crosses the line of decency and/or violates the dignity of the human person, will not be considered for credit. Credit will be conferred according to substance, aesthetic merit, content, and of course, creativity.

B) Please submit to me (tweldon@stfrancis.edu) during the dates of our Final Exam (4/30 to 5/6) a 15 minute filmed, mock interview with any of the leaders, thinkers and advocates for peace that we studied this semester (see Allman text). During the interview, please answer the following: “How is a lasting cessation to global conflict possible?”

Please be creative within the bounds of decency concerning expression (fashion, background scenes, location, setting, etc.), language, subject matter, persons portrayed, and all acting. Please know that the objectionable or what crosses the line of decency and/or violates the dignity of the human person will not be considered for credit.
Final Course Grade

Final course grades are earned according to your demonstrable success or failure in Class Attendance, the Reflection Essay, First Exam, The Midterm, Third Exam, Presentation performance, any given Homework, Quizzes, and Extra Credit and Final exam. Please know that a demonstration of sustained excellence in the aforementioned areas will result in an "A" grade, while the production of good work will result in a "B" grade. Average work receives a "C" grade and poor work receives a "D" grade. Failure in this class will result in an "F" grade. Success on the Midterm exam is crucial for success in the course.

As grades are a matter of importance to everyone, honesty should be foremost in the student's mind. In the end, a question to ask may be: did I perform in an excellent manner—or an average one? Please note well that further clarification on final grades can be found in the 2010-2012 University of St. Francis catalog (p. 201-02). Grading in this course adheres to the grade evaluations presented in the USF catalog on these pages.

NOTE: ALL excuses for exams, essays and participation cannot be retrofitted. The student must contact the instructor about any serious complications during the allotted time for the chapter quiz, exam, dates of participation. I cannot re-open quizzes, or exams.

Late work and Make up quizzes and exams are, owing to the already flexible nature of this course, and, absent a medical or extremely urgent situation, forbidden. Please know that for extreme situations, a grade of “incomplete” may be given upon instructor's approval.

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind including “group testing” or the taking of tests as a group exchanges of quiz or exam information will not be tolerated and may result in an “F” for this course.

Grading or the conferral of final course grades adheres to the following breakdown:

- Participation : 30%
- Video Reflections: 12%
- Contemporary Situation Reflections: 12%
- Midterm: 20% (1 x 15%)
- Final: 11% (1 x15%)
- Essay: 15% (1 x 7%)
- OPTIONAL: Extra Credit 5%

Final course grades are earned according to demonstrable success in participation, quizzes and both exams. Each final course letter grade earned will correspond to an aggregate percentage, outlined as follows:
- $A = 90-100\%$
- $B = 80-89\%$
- $C = 70-79\%$
- $D = 60-69\%$
- $F = 50-59\%$

COURSE OUTLINE

The dates given correspond to the timeline for reading of the chapters and participation and the video reflection essays or contemporary situation essay assignments, formal reflection essay, extra credit, midterm and final exam due dates. Please know that all participation for that must chapter and all assignments must be completed by the end date for that chapter—NO exceptions! (Example: the reading of chapter one and chapter one participation must be done by 11:55 pm CST on the last day listed for the chapter).

During the dates for Spring break, the Midterm and Final—no participation is expected/tallied.

January 14 to 24: CHAPTER #1 (Allman)

January 25 to Feb. 4: Ch. 2

February 5 to 17: Ch. 3

February 18 to 2/29: Ch. 4

March 1 to 6: Midterm exam (chapters 1-4 only)

Spring Break:
Mar 7-13

March 14 to 23: Ch. 5
Easter Break: 3/24-27

March 28 to April 13: Ch. 6 and Appendix

April 14 to 26: Part #I and #II (Nye)

April 27 to May 8: Part III

Final Exam AND formal essay AND extra credit due: May 9 to May 12, 2016

WELCOME TO PHILOSOPHY: War & Peace!

Scientia inflat, caritas aedificat

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
    When there is injury, pardon;
    Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
    Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that I may not so much seek
    To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand,
    To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.