

## ET 530: BIBLICAL AND ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PEACEMAKING

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### DESCRIPTION:

We have four objectives: (1) to learn ways of church renewal through teaching and practicing Jesus' call to peacemaking; (2) to achieve an articulate discernment of differences between Christian ethical approaches to peace and war, including nonviolence, just war theory, and just peacemaking theory, so as to be able to teach them to church members and others within our reach; (3) to be able to explain how these practices and ethical theories are grounded in biblical and theological teachings; (4) to prepare to teach how these practices can provide deliverance from threats of international terrorism, nuclear weapons, and the deep conflict between Israel and Palestine.

### COURSE FORMAT:

Class time will be divided between lecture and critical discussion of the readings. Part of the class will also involve role-playing of methods for conflict resolution in church conflicts. Students are strongly urged to become involved in some aspect of peacemaking ministry. Resources and referrals will be provided.

### REQUIRED READING:

Judy Zimmerman Herr and Robert Herr, *Transforming Violence: Linking Local and Global Peacemaking*. Herald Press, 1998.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, *The Challenge of Peace*. U.S. Catholic Conference, 1983.

Glen Stassen, ed. *Just Peacemaking: The New Paradigm for the Ethics of Peace and War*. Pilgrim Press, 2008.

Michelle Tooley, *Voices of the Voiceless: Women, Justice, and Human Rights in Guatemala*. Herald Press, 1997.

John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus*. Eerdmans:

Roger Fisher, *Getting Together*

### RECOMMENDED READING:

Lisa Sowle Cahill, *Love Your Enemies: Discipleship, Pacifism, and Just War Theory*. Fortress, 1994.

Nancy Murphy and G. Ellis, *On the Moral Nature of the Universe*. Fortress, 1996.

Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*. 3 vols. Porter Sargent, 1974.

Donald Shriver, *An Ethic for Enemies*. Oxford, 1995.

Walter Wink, *Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination*. Fortress Press, 1992.

Peggy Faw Gish, *Iraq: A Journey of Hope and Peace*.

Gene Sharp, *Politics of Nonviolent Action*

Abbott, *Breaking Silence*

John Howard Yoder, *Original Revolution*

Howard Zehr, *Little Book of Restorative Justice*

Christopher Marshall, *Beyond Retribution and Crowned with Glory and Honor: Human Rights in the Biblical Tradition*

## ASSIGNMENTS:

One in-class essay exam and a final essay exam; a ten-page position paper describing your thought on a particular practice of Christian peacemaking and how it can be taught and modeled in a church. In addition, students will be encouraged to find an opportunity for peacemaking ministry and write a brief report on their activities. Those for whom this is not feasible will devise a plan for incorporating peacemaking into future ministry or write a research paper on some aspect of peacemaking ministry. Please submit papers by an email attachment, both to Matt and to Glen.

## SCHEDULE:

### 1/4 and 1/9: **Churches and local groups:**

*Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War*, chapter 10.  
*Challenge of Peace*, chapter IV;  
Herr chapters 6, 7, 10 11, 12, 13.  
Consider Abbott, *Breaking Silence*.

### 1/11 **Yoder's diagnosis of evasion** by Ivy League ethicists, and the church-historical reactionary split of social from private.

Read Yoder, *Politics of Jesus*, chapter 1 and 21-27, 45-53, and chapter 6, Trial Balance.

### 1/16 and 1/18: **Peacemaking as crucial ingredient of the kingdom of God.**

Yoder, *Politics of Jesus*, 28ff., chapter 3 and 4.  
Read *Kingdom Ethics*, 150-158 (on reserve).  
Read Hays, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, chapter 14, on reserve.  
Read *Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War*, Introduction. And Herr chapter 1 by Jim Forest, chapter 3 by Soelle, and chapter 17 by Meyer.  
Consider Dale Brown, *Biblical Pacifism*.

### 1/23, 25, and 30: **Justice** as crucial practice of peacemaking:

*Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War*, chapters 5 and 6 on Justice, and Herr, chapter 16.  
Michelle Tooley, *Voices of the Voiceless* chapt 1-6. (A sizable assignment; start early.)  
Consider Christopher Marshall, *Beyond Retribution* and  
*Crowned with Glory and Honor: Human Rights in the Biblical Tradition*

### 2/1, 6, 8: **Growing Networks for International Cooperation, and Terrorism:**

*Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War*, chapters 7-8.  
Yoder, *Politics of Jesus*, chapters 8, 10, and 12. Herr, chapter 14 by Lederach.  
Read essays on just peacemaking and terrorism at [www.fuller.edu/sot/faculty/Stassen](http://www.fuller.edu/sot/faculty/Stassen).  
Read Jim Wallis, *God's Politics* part III, on reserve.  
Consider *Imperial Hubris*, by Anonymous (Brassey's: 2004). Consider Art Gish, *Iraq*.

**2/8: Midterm exam reviewing the course so far.**

We may have two out of three essay questions.

Possibly also a few very short-answer questions.

We'll also have the opportunity to integrate any of the recommended readings that interested you and that you read.

During the second hour, we will discuss what you have read on terrorism and networks of international cooperation.

**2/13, 15: Nonviolent Direction Action and Independent Initiatives:**

Chapter 1 and 2 in *Just Peacemaking*;

Yoder, *Politics of Jesus*, chapter 5 and 9;

Herr, chapter 2 and 8.

Consider Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*. 3 vols. Porter Sargent, 1974.

**2/20: Repentance & Forgiveness:**

chapter 4 in *Just Peacemaking* and chapt. 5 and 9 in Herr.

Yoder, *Politics of Jesus*, chapter 11 on Justification.

Consider Donald Shriver, *An Ethic for Enemies*. Oxford, 1995. And his new book, *Honest Patriots: Loving a Country Enough to Remember its Misdeeds* (Oxford: 2005)

**2/22: Role-playing on conflict resolution in the church.**

Roger Fisher, *Getting Together*

Herr, chapters 9 and 15; and "Cooperative Conflict Resolution," chapter 3 in *Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War*.

**2/27: Role-playing on conflict resolution in the church (continued).**

**3/1: Just War Theory**

Read *The Challenge of Peace*, Introduction and chapter I

**3/6: Just War Theory**

*The Challenge of Peace*, chapter II.

Consider Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Just War and Terrorism*

Consider Martin Cook, *The Moral Warrior*

**3/8: Just War Theory**

*The Challenge of Peace*, chapter III;

*Just Peacemaking*, chapter 9, Reduce Offensive Weapons.

THE FINAL EXAM will have basically the same format as the midterm. You will have the opportunity to use what you have read of the recommended readings.

## EXPERIENTIAL DIMENSION

Please write an approximately 10-page paper on your participation in a peacemaking group in your church or in a community organization. Describe what the group did and what you did; assess what was effective and what could have been more effective, using what we have learned in the course.

Or write a journal on your participation in a peacemaking group during the term. It would be helpful if you would choose one person who is a knowledgeable member, and interview that person four times about what the group is doing, its history, its methods, its peacemaking theology or strategy, what successes it has had, and what problems. Why that person is involved. How that person came to peacemaking. What breakthroughs or religious experiences that person had in the journey into peacemaking. Make notes on these experiences and on your analyses of their meaning for Christian peacemaking, for the church's witness and programming, and for you, in a journal form (informal and insightful). Due last day of exam week.

For the paper or journal, please use critical insights from the course, your reading, and your experience to evaluate & suggest how the group might sharpen its focus and strengthen its action. Please submit papers by an email attachment, both to Matt and to Glen. Saves paper and gas; is easy for us to return by email.

I'd like to encourage you to include the experiential dimension if you can, so I'll probably grade this more appreciatively than the other parts of the course.

## OPTIONAL PAPER

If you like writing papers better than tests, or have a special interest you'd like to research more than preparing for one of the tests, you may choose some topic in peacemaking and write an approximately 10-page single-space paper, substituting it for any 25 % part of the course.

The paper should use research to back up a thesis that you want to argue for. You *should* develop *some* thesis, not merely report what others have written. Let me know; maybe I can help. Due the last day of classes (Friday), not exam week.

## GRADES

Midterm Exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Informed class participation	25%
Journal or paper on involvement	25%
Or optional research paper	25%