

IDIS 294: Ethics of Peace and Justice  
Moravian College  
Dr. Pamela K. Brubaker  
Spring Semester, 2008  
TTh 8:50-10

**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:**

*International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics, Second Edition*, Amstutz  
*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  
1/17: King and Nonviolence

View “No Easy Walk”  
Read King, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

1/22: Morality and Foreign Policy  
1/24: Ethical Decision Making

Read Amstutz 7-27, Case 1-1\*  
Read Amstutz 28-44

1/29: Ethical Traditions: Realism  
1/31: Ethical Traditions: Idealism

Read Amstutz 45-54, Case 3-1\*  
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: <b>Mid-term examination</b>	
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: <b>Hearing on preemptive war and jihad</b>	

## 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	Read <i>The Problem from Hell</i> (Hand-out)
<b>Gandhian Critical Analysis Paper due.</b>	
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)**