

Why Violence? Nonviolent Social Action in the Modern World

LinC 101K, Fall 2014

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 10:20-11:30; PPHAC 330

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PPHAC 316

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Course Description and Objectives

First-Year Seminar introduces writing as a process that is central to college learning and to life. First-Year Seminar focuses on college-level reading and writing, so students will begin to sharpen the critical reasoning skills needed for success in any academic discipline at Moravian College. The subject area focus of each section of First-Year Seminar entails reading and discussing ideas and styles from various academic disciplines, but all sections are the same in their general approach: students will practice both speaking and writing and will work collaboratively in workshop settings.

Course Overview: This course begins with a question: is nonviolence an effective way to bring about social and political change? With the popularity of violent video games, movies and ultimate fighting, it might seem foolish to think that nonviolence could be effective in today's world. Yet, social and political movements around the globe are embracing strategies of nonviolence. This course will explore different ways of understanding nonviolence as a philosophy and as a political strategy. We will pay particular attention to the place of 'nonviolence' in the culture and asking which kinds of situations might necessitate a response grounded in nonviolence.

- With regard to the question of Why Violence? by the end of the course students will:

- Critically engage writings on nonviolence.
- Analyze the place and relevance of non-violence in the world today.
- Critically understand how war and peace building affect societies.
- Learn about the place of war and peacebuilding in the Lehigh Valley.

-With regard to broad academic and writing skills, by the end of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate a process approach to writing (see document on Blackboard about Writing as a Process).
- Use writing as a way to discover new information and insights—in short, to learn.
- Demonstrate competency in writing including framing questions, posing problems, and synthesizing information to write an academic paper.
- Write effectively for a variety of audiences.
- Gather information for assignments through the use of appropriate technology and evaluate the credibility of sources needed to write an academic paper.
- Read critically and comprehensively to integrate others' ideas with their own.

-With regard to transition to college expectations, by the end of this course students will:

- Articulate an understanding of liberal education as it affects one's life now and prepares the individual for the future.
- Practice behaviors for successful learning including effective study habits, time management, goal setting and coping skills.
- Collaborate with faculty and student advisors and engage with the College community --students, faculty and staff-- to promote the students' success at Moravian College.

FYS Requirements: Each student enrolled in First-Year Seminar will complete several pieces of writing, formal and informal, graded and/or ungraded. Students should expect to receive suggestions from their instructor or classmates as they develop writing assignments through multiple drafts. Individual conferences, written comments, small group workshops, the College Writing Center—all may be used to help you as you plan, draft, revise, and edit a piece of writing.

At least one writing assignment should involve substantial use of Reeves Library. Students will develop information literacy as they learn to identify and investigate a research topic. By the time students complete First-Year Seminar, therefore, they should be proficient in the following “**basic competencies**” of information literacy:

- Define a research need
 - Formulate a research topic
 - Determine an information need
- Plan and execute a search for information
 - Identify key terms and concepts
 - Identify the most appropriate sources of information
 - Use Boolean operators and truncation where appropriate
 - Impose limiters (e.g., scholarly vs. popular, date, language)
 - Modify the search based on search results
- Know how and where to find the sources discovered in the search process

- Determine which sources the library owns or provides access to and retrieve them
- Request material not owned by the library on Interlibrary Loan
- Locate material faculty may have put on reserve in the library
- Understand the obligation to credit sources and be able to do so in an appropriate citation style

Writing Center: The Writing Center is a free resource for improving your writing. At the Writing Center, trained Moravian students can help you figure out assignments and improve your writing. They can help at any stage of the writing process, whether you haven't started the assignment and need help picking a topic, or you're near the end and want to check that everything is in order. And it's not just for help with Writing 100 or English papers—any type of writing can be taken there, including science reports and cover letters. The tutors will first work with you to make sure that all the bigger issues are covered, such as proper citation, fulfilling the assignment, and structure of the paper. Then, they can also help you with spelling, grammar, and mechanics. You can sign up for a half-hour or an hour-long appointment. After your appointment, the tutor you work with will send me a progress report, letting me know that you were there. The Writing Center is on the second floor of Zinzendorf Hall and the extension is 1592. Their hours vary each semester, but they are generally open Monday-Thursday afternoons and evenings, and Sunday evening. Watch your email for an announcement about when the Writing Center opens, generally the third week of the term, which will also include the hours.

Student Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

Course Structure and Expectations: This course is designed as a writing seminar—the two defining features of the course are writing and seminar discussions. Both of these, our writing and our discussions, will be grounded in shared reading. Over the course of the semester, there will be a number of formal writing assignments that will include multiple drafts. These will be graded according to the guidelines provided for each assignment. Guidelines will be posted to blackboard and discussed in class. In addition, there will be informal writing nearly every week. These writing activities will be graded according to the seriousness with which they are taken.

A note on participation: All students are expected to participate in course discussions. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the classroom environment is conducive to all member's participation. Everyone shares the responsibility to arrive on time, with all of the necessary materials—unnecessary items should be left behind. (If you must have a cell phone with you, for example to be accessible to childcare providers, please see me at the beginning of the semester.) Everyone should bring a professional demeanor respectful of differing ideas.

A note on Academic Honesty: This course follows the college policy on academic honesty and plagiarism. This policy is found in the Student Handbook. See also the statement posted to the blackboard site for this course.

A note on the Use of Technology in this Course: The Moravian College policy of issuing all incoming students with Macbooks and Ipads provides the opportunity to re-imagine how courses are conducted. This course will make use of these new tools, and in so doing, will evaluate these tools. Students will be asked to utilize a variety of electronic resources and applications in this course. Part of our course will be devoted to evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of these resources.

Assignments and Assessment: All assignments will be discussed in class. Final Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Attendance at community events & Responses	5%
Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	15%
Paper 3	25%
Peer Review Responses	10%
Presentation	5%
Regular Informal writing	15%
Class Participation	10%

Texts & Other Resources: Students are required to purchase the three primary texts that we will use in this course.

- 1.) Powers, Kevin. *The Yellow Birds* (Back Bay, 2013). This is the common reading for all First Year Students at Moravian.
- 2.) Kurlansky, Mark. *Nonviolence: The History of a Dangerous Idea* (Modern Library, 2008). This book will introduce us to the complicated history of thinking about war and nonviolence. This book takes a global approach to exploring these issues.
- 3.) Ede, Lisa. *The Academic Writer: A Brief Guide*, 3E (Bedford St. Martins, 2014). This is our writing text for the semester.

In addition to the required texts listed above, resources will be made available through Blackboard, Google Drive, and other means. Students will need to enroll in the blackboard shell for the course.

Course Schedule:

The outline below is meant to provide a brief overview of how this course will progress. A more detailed, and regularly updated, schedule is included in our shared online folder.

August 15th: Summer Assignments Due

Week 1 (August 24th, 26th, 28th & 29th) Introduction to the course; Setting up for collaborative learning.

Sunday: Discussion of *The Yellow Birds*; Q & A with Kevin Powers.

Tuesday: Introduction to the course, review of syllabus, further discussion of Powers.

Thursday: Planning for a successful semester; using Drive, Blackboard, etc.

Read: Ede, ch. 1.

Friday: Student Affairs Session - Sex Signals

Week 2 (September 2nd, 4th & 5th)

Tuesday: Thinking about Violence, War, Peace, and other key terms

Read: Kurlansky, Foreword and ch. 1; Ede, ch. 2

Thursday: No Class Meeting - Use this time for your group writing project

Read: Ede, ch. 3 (skim); Kurlansky, ch. 2

Friday: Student Affairs: Counseling Center, Health Center, Religious Life

Week 3 (September 9th, 11th & 12th)

Tuesday: Listening closely and taking notes

Read, Ede, ch. 4; Kurlansky, ch. 3

Thursday: **Opening Convocation @ 11:45 in Johnston Hall. Nobel Peace Prize Winner Jody Williams.**

Friday: Student Affairs: Academic Support Center

Week 4 (September 16th, 18th & 19th)

Tuesday: Thinking about arguments

Read: Kurlansky, chs. 4-5; Ede, ch. 6

Thursday: Nonviolence

Read: Kurlansky, chs. 6-8

Friday: Student Affairs: International Education & Center for Intercultural Advancement & Inclusion

Week 5 (September 23rd, 25th & 26th)

Tuesday: Analyzing Texts

Read: Ede, ch. 5; Kurlansky, chs. 9-11

Thursday: Writing workshop

Friday: Student Affairs: Career Center

Week 6 (September 30th, October 2nd & 3rd)

Tuesday: Paper Review Workshop

Thursday: Thinking about Research

Read: Ede, ch. 5

Paper 1 Due

Friday: Student Affairs: Student Involvement and Leadership

Week 7 (October 7th, 9th & 10th)

Tuesday: Library Research Session -- Meet at Reeves Library

Wednesday, October 8th | 7:00 PM | Foy Hall - (Attendance at this program is encouraged)

Hispanic Heritage Month Keynote: Journalist Maria Hinojosa - "Preparing Our Society for 2043"

Thursday: Midterm Assessment

Friday: Reflections on research

Week 8 (October 14th, 16th & 17th)

October 16th & 17th: Trustees

Tuesday: No Class - Fall Recess

Thursday: Framing Research Questions

Friday: What you need to know about registering for spring classes

Week 9 (October 21st, 23rd & 24th)

Tuesday: Becoming a Better Reader

Read: Ede, ch. 9

Thursday: Writing Workshop

Friday: Paper Review Workshop

Week 10 (October 28th, 30th & 31st)

Tuesday: Paper 2 Due

Thursday: Individual Conferences

Friday: Individual Conferences

Week 11 (November 4th, 6th & 7th) Scheduling Inspiration

Tuesday: Planning

Read: Ede, ch. 12

Thursday: Using the clock

Read: Eviatar Zerubavel, *The Clockwork Muse*, selections.

Friday: Planning for the rest of the semester

Week 12 (November 11th, 13th & 14th) Evaluating different kinds of texts

Tuesday: News and Blogs

Thursday: Books and Journals

Friday: Revising
Read: Ch. 14

Week 13 (November 18th, 20th & 21st)

Tuesday: Making sense of a rapidly ending semester

Thursday:

Friday: Paper Review Workshop

Week 14 (November 25th, 27th & 28th)

Tuesday: Discussion on Feedback

Thursday: No Class - Thanksgiving Recess

Friday: No Class - Thanksgiving Recess

Week 15 (December 2nd, 4th & 5th)

Tuesday: Paper 3 Due, Student Presentations

Thursday: Student Presentations

Friday: End of Semester Matters

Week 16 Exam Week

Friday, December 12th @ 8:30