

**Political Science 250: Contemporary Political Theory, Fall 2014**  
**THINKING PEACE in conjunction with IN FOCUS: WAR, PEACEBUILDING AND THE JUST SOCIETY**

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This course meets on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. in PPHAC 338.

Office hours:  
 Wednesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.;  
 Thursdays, 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.;  
 and also by appointment.

	Calendar		✓	Assignments, events, commonplace book
1	Wednesday, August 27			Introductions, syllabus, Commonplace book instructions
2	Wednesday, September 3			Gandhi, <i>Gandhi on Non-Violence</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation:
	Thursday, September 4			Peace and Justice Colloquium: Jason Radine, War and Refugees in Ancient Israel 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UBC Room
3	Wednesday, September 10			Gandhi, <i>Gandhi on Non-Violence</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation: Submit commonplace book to instructor
	Thursday, September 11			Cohen Convocation: 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Jody Williams 10:00 Johnston Hall
4	Wednesday, September 17			Documentary on Martin Luther King, Jr. Commonplace book returned
	Thursday, September 18			Peace and Justice Colloquium: Heather Felise, Biodefense 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UBC Room
5	Wednesday, September 24			Martin Luther King, Jr., <i>A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation:

6	Wednesday, October 1			Martin Luther King, Jr., <i>A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation:
7	Wednesday, October 8			Martin Luther King, Jr., <i>A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation: Submit commonplace book to instructor
8	Wednesday, October 15			Documentary on Cesar Chavez Commonplace book returned
	Thursday, October 16			Peace and Justice Colloquium: Bob Mayer, Nonviolence as Tactic, as a Way of Life in the Civil Rights Movement 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UBC Room
9	Wednesday, October 22			Commonplace book notes Presentation:
10	Wednesday, October 29			Commonplace book notes Presentation: Submit commonplace book to instructor
	Thursday, October 30			Peace and Justice Colloquium: Jamie Paxton, "Neither French, nor English, nor Indian" : War and Identity on the Iroquoian 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UBC Room
11	Wednesday, November 5			Commonplace book returned
	Thursday, November 6			Peace and Justice Colloquium: Craig Atwood, Moravian Pacifism and Its Demise 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UBC Room
12	Wednesday, November 12			Judith Butler, <i>Precarious Life</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation:
13	Wednesday, November 19			Judith Butler, <i>Precarious Life</i> Commonplace book notes Presentation Submit commonplace book to instructor
	Thursday, November 20			Peace and Justice Colloquium: Daniel Jasper, Commemorating Martial Valor in Western India 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UBC Room
14	Wednesday, December 3			Last day of class, course evaluations, final discussion, assessment Commonplace book returned

<b>Evaluation</b>			
Engagement	25%	ongoing	Please see notes below.
Commonplace book reading notes	25%	ongoing	Collected sporadically. Please see instructions below.
Commonplace book In   Focus events	25%		
Final paper	30%		

<b>What does an engagement grade represent?</b>
A: Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.
B: Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions; engagement of the arguments of others.
C: Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.
D: Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.
F: Persistent, vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

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## Commonplace Book Notes: Learning by Writing

### Preparation:

- Carefully complete your assigned reading ahead of writing notes.
- A simple ballpoint pen is recommended to reduce smearing while writing.
- Scheduling: it should take between one and two hours for the first few entries to become accustomed to the process. Later entries will take between 30 and 45 minutes (possibly less) to complete.

### Required elements, standard formal entry:

- Date all notes by writing out the day, the month, and the year. Your first date will be Tuesday, 2nd September 2014.
- Include full bibliographic information for notes that begin discussion on a new text. For example:  
Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin, 2006.  
Please consult the Chicago manual of style website or similar sources for citation rules  
[www.chicagomanualofstyle.org](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org).
- Include in each new set of notes the full name of the author(s)
  - Look up birth and death dates of each author including cities and countries.
  - Identify unknown words, look up definitions, and record.
  - Identify the thesis or central concern of each reading.
  - Look up two contextual historical events during the lifetime of the author and note them.
- Write out three passages of your choice. Passages should consist of three to five lines of text. Identify the page number and follow each passage with a question or a comment for discussion in class.

### Required elements, reflection page:

- Reflect on your reading. Compose a single thoughtful page.
  - This can be anywhere between eight sentences to two paragraphs.
  - This reflection will describe your thought process and the questions, comments, and connections to other texts or ideas that you make while reading. Own your thought.

### Write notes clearly and neatly.

### Evaluation:

- Commonplace books will be collected sporadically throughout the semester.
- Individual entries will receive a ✓+ ; ✓ ; or a zero. A final grade will be given for the book.
- Over the course of the semester, a complete set of notes might easily reach 50 to 70 pages of handwriting.

Your phone does not exist in our classroom. Let's speak with each other or concentrate.  
If you are a parent or a caretaker (I am) and thus need to be accessible at all times, please let me know.

Protect the classroom as a space of dialogue and learning.  
Value our texts. Develop your own thinking in class and in your commonplace book.

Come and talk. You are always welcome to come to office hours. No appointments needed.

Be diligent. Be prepared. Show up.  
An undocumented absence will harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% of your total course grade.

Drink now. Eat somewhere else at some other time.

Expect to spend 140 minutes preparing for each 70-minute class meeting.

Submit your commonplace book on time.  
For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment.  
Late work is penalized: 5% of final commonplace book grade per day.

Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment or the course. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support on the First Floor of Monocacy Hall, or by calling (610) 861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

This syllabus is subject to change.