TENTATIVE Syllabus

Instructor: C. Michael, Liberato, PhD
Office: Room: 520 S. Kedzie Hall;
Office Hours: M, W 10am – 12 pm, or by appt.
Email: liberato@msu.edu

TA
Office: Office Hours:
Email:

TEXTS
6. Hensley J. Hunter, Terrorism or Patriotism: A Primer on Understanding Conflict in the Middle East, Xlibris, 2007 (TP)

OTHER READINGS AND RESOURCES – placed on Course Angel Site (A)
https://angel.msu.edu

General Goals of Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities
Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities at MSU seeks to assist students to become more familiar with ways of knowing in the arts and humanities and to be more knowledgeable and capable in a range of intellectual and expressive abilities. IAH courses encourage students to engage critically with their own society, history, and culture(s); they also encourage students to learn more about the history and culture of other societies. They focus on key ideas and issues in human experience; encourage appreciation of the roles of knowledge and values in shaping and understanding human behavior; emphasize the responsibilities and opportunities of democratic citizenship; highlight the value of the creative arts of literature, theater, music, and arts; and alert us to important issues that occur among peoples in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world.

Course Description & Objectives
Warfare seems to be a constant part of human society, yet societies have understood and undertaken war in quite different ways. In addition to reflecting on the reasons for these differences, we ask the question whether we can imagine putting an end to warfare altogether. Because of the powerful and destructive weaponry now available, this is a question of life and death for much of, if not all, human society. The aim of this course is to explore ways of looking at war and thinking about conditions and causes of war; and to consider other approaches to resolving international conflicts and changing the conditions that lead to war. Our guiding questions will be, to what extent are the conditions of injustice the cause of war and to what extent is eliminating war a matter of pursuing justice and democracy?
We will discuss war in general terms, but also examine three contemporary conflicts, the “war on terrorism,” the war in Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The aim of this course is not to pretend to reach a single answer to questions of war and peace, but to clarify the questions themselves and to examine various responses to those questions. Following the integrative studies approach, we will be drawing from different kinds of knowledge and cultural activity as we discuss these issues and reflecting on different kinds of thinking that philosophy, history, literature, social science, journalism, film and TV put at our disposal. Besides examining the views of important thinkers and politicians, students will be asked to present and argue for their own ideas. We will be following ongoing developments on these issues during the course, so students will be expected to follow reports in newspapers and radio or TV. The students will be meeting twice a week – with each class consisting of the equivalence of a bit more than one week of classes during the regular semester. Student discussion of the course topics is also a significant and essential part of the course.

Sections Meeting Times

Course Requirements

1. **Class Attendance**: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, take notes and contribute to class discussions. The class is organized both to increase awareness and to foster the exchange of ideas through blogs, discussion forums, and class participation. Thus, students are expected to come to class having read the material assigned for that day and ready to listen, to reflect and to speak about the issues under consideration. **Attendance is required. If a student arrives after attendance is taken, she will be marked absent. It is the student’s responsibility to see the instructor to correct attendance record for that day.** If a student misses more than 6 classes (2 weeks), she may receive a lower course grade. If a student misses more than 12 classes (4 weeks) that student may receive a 0 for the course.

2. **Class Participation**: Students are expected to read all the material required for each class period and come prepared to discuss the material in class. **Class participation in the sectional meetings will be evaluated on the basis of the student’s grasp of the reading material and her ability to integrate the readings and apply them to the topic of discussion.**

3. **Friday Blog**: On each of the Fridays during the semester, 12 Fridays in all, students are to engage one another in a Blog established in Angel by the instructor. The purpose of the Blog is to establish a free-flowing discussion of any of the issues brought up in class (by either the readings, the lectures or the class discussion), their meaning and significance for the topics of that week, which are identified in the course calendar. **Blogs (all in Angel) will open up after the last sectional classes on Fridays (i.e., at 4:00 pm) and will close midnight Saturdays. 12 Friday Blogs will each count 3 points toward your course grade of 100 points.** **SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FRIDAY BLOGS** in Angel, Lessons Tab, “Friday Blogs.”

4. **Writing Assignments as Discussion Forums**: In addition to the Friday Blogs, further writing assignments will consist of Six Discussion Forums, which will be graded by the instructor, where students will discuss their responses to specific topics/questions identified by the instructor. These Discussion Forums are scheduled following each of the six units of the course (see course calendar). **The purpose of each forum is for you to demonstrate (a) your ability to analyze the**
topic (i.e., to think critically – and not simply summarize (b) take a position on questions related to that topic, (c) argue for your position and (d) defend it (i.e., give reasons for your position and be able to counter any arguments that are given against your position). Indeed, this is the ultimate goal of the entire class. In assessing your work I will (1) read all your posts for clarity and how well you give evidence for (justify, argue for) your positions; (2) examine the clarity, relevance and critical thoughtfulness of your responses to posts made by other students and 3) examine your responsiveness, reasonableness and relevance to other students' comments critical of your positions. Each Discussion Forum will count 8 points toward your course grade. See instructions for discussion forums in Angel, Lessons Tab – “Discussion Forums.”

5. **Assigned Readings:** You are expected to read all assigned reading materials by the dates specified in the Course Calendar and Reading Schedule. Each student is expected to prepare herself for classroom discussions and quizzes on those readings.

6. **Make-up and Late Work:** A student may NOT turn in a written assignment after its due date except in the case of documented illness or emergency or other situations deemed appropriate by the instructor.

7. **Extra Credit:** Opportunities to earn extra credit may or may not be offered, and will be determined by the instructor. No opportunity will be given for individual extra credit. If extra credit is available to anyone, it must be made available to all.

**Course Grades**

Your Final Course Grade will be based on:
- Discussion Forums – 6 each @ 8pts (8%) each - Criteria for evaluation 48%
  - See “Writing Assignments as Discussion Forums” above
- Friday Blogs – 12 each @ 3pts (3%) each - Criteria for evaluation 36%
  - Relevance, thoughtfulness & clarity
- Class Participation: Attendance & Class Discussions - Criteria 16%
  - Thoughtful, relevant and positive contribution 100%

**Grading Scale - converting percentages to final course grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 &amp; above</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 - 92</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 84</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 - 79</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 74</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 - 69</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Tools:
The instructor is always available to any student who is struggling with the course content. However, there are times when a student might need additional help and support. To this end, the university provides the following free services to students:

Angel Course Web: We will post the syllabus, course outline and reading schedule, study materials and resources as well as other course information online.

Library: Michigan State University has much to offer, from helpful staff to numerous resources, including online databases. Get to know your library! Visit the main library at http://www2.lib.msu.edu/

Learning Resource Center (LRC): offers assistance to students who want to improve their study skills (time management, etc.). 202 Bessey or visit LRC@msu.edu

Writing Center: consultants will help you at any stage of your writing process, at 300 Bessey or online at http://www.writing.msu.edu

RCPD office: The Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities leads Michigan State University in maximizing ability and opportunity for full participation by persons affected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require special assistance, do not hesitate to can contact the RCPD, 120 Bessey Hall, Phone: (517) 3539642, TTY: (517) 3551293, Fax: (517) 4323191, who will, in turn inform us of special conditions pertaining to your learning. See your Student Handbook at http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/default.pdf

FERPA policy: Michigan State University respects the privacy of student information. In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), we restrict internal access to student information to persons with a legitimate “need to know.” Further, we do not release private student information to any third party without the prior written consent of the student. See http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/PrivacyGuidelines.asp
Course Calendar and Readings Schedule

Part I – Society and War

Part I-A. Conditions and Causes of War

Jan. 10  Introduction to Course and Course Overview, Expectations of Students, and Assumptions of a Peace and Justice Studies Course*

Jan. 12  Is war a result of human nature?
Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse Five SF - chapter 1, pp. 1-28
Sigmund Freud, “Why War” in Approaches to Peace (AP), pp. 9-13;

Jan 14  FRIDAY BLOG (Trial) (In Angel, Lessons- under Participation Tab):
N.B. For all Friday Blogs: Students may begin their Friday Blog entry After 4:00 pm on Friday, but must make their entry no later than the following Saturday at midnight

Jan 17  MLK Holiday – NO CLASS

Jan 19  Is war a construction of society?
Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap. 2.
Margaret Mead, “Warfare Is Only an Invention Not a Biological Necessity,” in, AP, pp. 20-23
Scenes from Frontline “The Persuaders” chap. 1(13 min) & 2(15 min)
A, Videos, (Class video) - use PBS Frontline link
Anthony Swofford, “Chapter 1” Jarhead: A Marine’s Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles” ( 4 pp.) in A, Articles

Jan 21  FRIDAY BLOG #1 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Jan 24  National Identities and the Need for War
Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap. 3.
“Glamorized Nationalism: Some Examples in Poetry,” in AP, pp. 51-54
Toby Keith, Lyrics and mp3 “Courtesy of the Red White and Blue,”
in A, Songs w/ Lyrics
Scenes from Frontline “The Persuaders” ch.3 & 4, in A, Videos
The Official US Army Game “America’s Army”
Jan 26  Ideological Identities and the Need for War
   Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap. 4
   in AP, pp. 54-60
   Johann Galtung, “Cultural Violence” (13 pp.) in A, Articles
   Scenes from Frontline “The Persuaders”, ch.5-6, in A, Videos

Jan 28  FRIDAY BLOG #2 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Jan 29-31  DISCUSSION FORUM #1 – On the Conditions and Causes of War
   (Opens Saturday, at 8:00 am and closes Monday at 8:00 am.)

Jan 31  Ambiguities of War – Defining the Enemy
   Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, SF – chap 5
   Nicolas Lemann, “The Word Lab” (10 pp.) in A, Articles
   Susan Sontag, “Real Battles and Empty Metaphors,” in A, Articles
   Hendrick Hertzberg, “Against the War Metaphor,” in A, Iraq War Reader Articles
   Scenes from “Three Kings” in A, Videos (class video – The Kuwait War – a media war)
   Bob Dylan, Lyrics & Music to “John Brown.” In A, Songs w/ Lyrics

Feb 4  FRIDAY BLOG #3 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Part I-B. Case Study: The U.S. Second Iraq War

Feb 7  A Background To the War
   Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap 6
   John Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War (WNGW), Ch 9, pp. 323-337
   The Bush Doctrine – Preemptive War
   Mark Thompson, “Inside the Secret War Council,” in A, Iraq War Reader Articles
   Nicholas Lemann, “The Next World Order,” in A, Iraq War Reader Articles

Feb 9  Arguments for A Preemptive Iraq War
   Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap. 7
   Ann Coulter, “Why We Hate Them”, in A, Iraq War Reader Articles
Articles
John McCain, “Iraq’s Disarmament is Impossible without Regime Change,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Scenes from Frontline: Bush’s War, Part 1, c. 6 (8 min), “Iraq back on the Table” 48:59-56:48; and c. 10 (11 min.), “Drumbeats of War” 1:26:01-1:37:06 (in class video) also in A, links

Feb 11  FRIDAY BLOG #4 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday evening at midnight)

Feb 14  Arguments Against Preemptive War
Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap 8
Al Gore, “Against a Doctrine of Pre-emptive War,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Brent Scowcroft, Don’t Attack Saddam,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Noam Chomsky, “Drain the Swamp and There Will Be No More Mosquitoes,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Ron Paul, “Questions That Won’t Be Asked About Iraq,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Pat Buchanan, “The War Party’s Imperial Plans,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Scenes from Rush to War, “Prescription for Disaster” 28:11-35:40 (8 min.) (in class video) in A. Videos

Feb 16  The Final Decision
Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five SF – chap 9 & 10
Jay Bookman, “The President’s Real Goal in Iraq,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Michael Klare, “Deciphering the Bush Administration’s Motives,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
George W. Bush, “The War Begins, the Tyrant Will soon be Gone,” in A. Iraq War Reader Articles
Scenes from Frontline: Bush’s War, “The Countdown to War” (10 min.) (in class video)

The Humanity of This War: Consequences of Our Decision
John Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War (WNGW), Ch 9, pp. 337 -358.
Scenes from The History Channel: The Iraq War, “Eyewitnesses in Iraq”
Part I–C. Removing War from Society - Peace Through Victory

Feb 23  Is there such a thing as a “Just War?”
“Principles of a Just War” in A. Articles
“Just War Theory” The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, in A. Articles
Richard Falk, “Defining a Just War,” in A. Articles
William O’Brien, “The Conduct of a Just and Limited War,” in A. Articles
Bob Dylan’s “Masters or War,” in A. Songs w/ Lyrics
Scenes from Rush to War, “Torture” 1:06:04-1:13:01 (in class video)
in A. Videos

Feb 23  Intellectual Assumptions: “War as Element of Nature or Part of Society?”
Also see, http://www.iep.utm.edu/h/hobmoral.htm
R. Fisher & W. Ury, “Getting to Yes” in AP, pp. 70-76
William James, “The Moral Equivalent of War,” in AP, pp. 65-69
Jean-Jacques Rousseau “On Inequality” (19 pp) in A. Articles
Also see, http://www.iep.utm.edu/r/rousseau.htm#SH3b
Bob Dylan, Lyrics & Music, “Blowin’ in the Wind,”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMEYS3U27-0
You Tube – in A. Songs w/ Lyrics

Feb 25  FRIDAY BLOG #6 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Feb 28 & Mar 2  Imagining a World without War & Torture
Charles Osgood, “Disarmament Demands GRIT” in AP, pp. 78-82
Henry Shue, “Torture,” in Angel, Articles
David Luban, “Liberalism, Torture and the Ticking Bomb,” in CMP

Mar 2  NO FRIDAY BLOG

Mar 5 – 9  SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
Mar 14  The Role of International Law?
David Barash, “International Law,” in *AP*, pp. 106-113
Heather MacDonald, “How to Interrogate Terrorists,” in *Angel, Articles*
Meaning of “International Law”- (Cornell University Law School)
in *Angel, Articles* [http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/international_law](http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/international_law)
International Court of Justice: in *Angel, Links*  
The United Nations Charter, in *Angel, Articles*  
[http://www.unhchr.ch/pdf/UNcharter.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/pdf/UNcharter.pdf)
The UN Peace and Security in *Angel, Links*  
Scenes from *Rendition* in *Angel, Videos* (class video)

Mar 16  Review for Discussion Forum #3
Catch up with uncovered materials on Just War and Iraq

Mar 18  FRIDAY BLOG #7 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Mar 18 – 21  Discussion Forum #3  ON Eliminating War – Negative Peace

**Part II – Society And Terrorism**

**Part II – A. Conditions And Causes of Terrorism**

Mar 21  Defining Terrorism
Haig Khatchadourian, “The Morality of Terrorism pt. 1, pp.34-38 in *Angel, Articles*
Louise Richardson, “What is Terrorism,” in *Angel, Articles*
Scenes from Movie “Rendition- Documentary”

Mar 23  A Clash of Civilizations?
Claudia Card, “Questions Regarding a War on Terrorism,” *Angel, Articles*  
Eqba Ahmad, Terrorism: Theirs & Ours, *AP*, pp. 127-132
Howard Zinn, ch.2, “Searching For Common Ground,”  
*ZINN* pp.27-49
David Luban, “The War on Terrorism and the End of Human  
Rights” in *CMP* pp. 49-56
Scenes from *Rush To War*, “Tyranny & Oppression”  
00 – 11:30 (in class video) and in *Angel, Videos*
Mar 25  Friday Blog #8 (opens Friday at 4 pm – closes Saturday evening at midnight)

Mar 28  Radical Terrorism: A Holy War? A Just War?
Laurie Calhoun, “Terrorists Tacit Message” in CMP, pp. 33-39
Haig Khatchadourian, “The Morality of Terrorism Pt. 2”
pp. 38-47 in A, Articles
pp 61-72 in A, Articles
ZINN pp. 50-77
Karsten Struhl, The Philosophical Forum, Spring ’05, 129-137,
“Is War a Morally Legitimate Response To Terrorism?”
pp. 129-137 in A, Articles

Mar 30  Modern Religious Terrorism
H. Zinn, ch.5, 6, 7 “War on Civilians” & “The Logic of War” and
“Not in Our Name” in ZINN pp. 78-120
Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, ch. 4, “Religion & Terrorism,” in A, Articles
Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, chap. 5, “Suicide Terrorism and the
Palestinian Use of Suicide” pp. 131-171, in A, Articles

Apr  1  FRIDAY BLOG #9 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Apr 1 - 4  DISCUSSION FORUM #4 – On The Conditions and Causes of Terrorism
(Opens Friday, at 4:00 pm and closes Monday at 8:00 am.)

Part II – B. Case Study: The Palestine-Israeli Conflict

Apr  4  An Introduction to the History of the Conflict:
Hensley Hunter, Terrorism or Patriotism: A Primer on Understanding Conflict
in the Middle East, TP, Ch 1-5, pp. 7-53
Stoessinger, “The 60 Years War in the Holy Land,” Ch. 7 in WNGW, 215-293

Apr  6  A Jewish Perspective – The Formation of the Jewish State
Cohn-Sherbok/El-Alami, The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, ch. 1-5
“The Zionist Movement,” “Beyond the First World War,” “The Jewish
State,” “The Six Day War,” “The Road to Peace,” in PIC, pp. 3-103
(Frontline Documentary: Journey to the Occupied Lands)

Apr  8  FRIDAY BLOG #10 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Apr 11  A Palestinian Perspective – Toward a Palestinian State
Cohn-Sherbok/El-Alami, ch. 9-12 “The Origins of Modern Palestine,”
“Palestinians, Jews and the British,” Toward the Establishment of a
Jewish State,” Arabs and Jews” and “Towards Liberation” in PIC,
pp. 105-228
Apr 13 A Debate: Can there be a Resolution to This Conflict?

The Role of the United States – An Honest Broker?
Hensley Hunter, Terrorism or Patriotism: A Primer on Understanding Conflict in the Middle East, (TP) Ch. 6-15, pp. 56 - 104
Scenes from PBS Documentary, “Elusive Peace: Israel and The Arabs” (in class video)
Video: The Iron Wall

Apr 15 FRIDAY BLOG #11 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Apr 15-18 DISCUSSION FORUM #5 – On the Israeli - Palestinian Conflict
(Opens Saturday, at 8:00 am and closes Monday at 8:am.)

Part II – C. Peace Through Justice – Structures of Positive Peace

Apr 18 Relationship Between Peace & Justice
Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” in AP 171-176
“Religious Inspiration,” Chapter 5 in AP pp. 220-244

Apr 20 Seeking Positive Peace – Peace Through Justice
Betty Reardon, “Sexism and the War System,” in AP pp. 259-266
Dalai Lama, “A Human Approach to World Peace,” in AP pp.266-272
Desmond Tutu, “No Future without Forgiveness,” in AP pp. 277-282

Apr 22 FRIDAY BLOG #12 (opens Friday at 4 pm, closes Saturday at midnight)

Apr 25 Imagining Alternatives: Non-Violence
Douglas Lackey, “Pacificism” in CMP pp. 8-21
Review: William James, “The Moral Equivalent of War” in AP, pp. 66-70
Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience,” in AP pp. 192-197
Leo Tolstoy, “Letter to Ernest Howard Crosby,” in AP, pp. 197-201
Edna St. Vincent Millay, “Poem: Conscientious Objector,” in AP, pp. 201-202
Albert Camus, “Neither Victims nor Executioners,” in AP, pp. 202-204
Mohandas Gandhi, “Ahimsa, or the Way of Nonviolence” in AP, pp. 205-212
Scenes from *Rush to War*, “*Spheres of Interest,*” 43:39-49:08,”
(class video) and in *A, Videos*

Apr 27  Imagining Alternatives: Social Structures for Peace
Jeffery Sachs, “*Global Economic Solidarity.*” In *AP,* pp. 166-171
*A Few Poetic Visions (of Peace),”* Steven Crane, Wilfred Owen, Yeats,
Leigh Hunt, and e.e. cummings in *AP* pp. 284-286
Victoria Bonney, “*Antiwar Activists, Where Are You?*” in *AP,* pp. 282-284
Elise Boulding, “*Building Utopias in History*” in *AP* pp. 246-250
Vaclav Havel, “*The Politics of Responsibility*” in *A, Articles*
Dalai Lama, “*A Human Approach to World Peace,*” in *AP,* pp. 266-271

April 29  NO FRIDAY BLOG

Apr 29- May 3  FINAL DISCUSSION FORM #6 - On Positive Peace and Justice –
(Opens at 4 pm 4/29 and closes at 9:45 am 5/3)