

**CEHS 2542: PACIFISM AND PEACE MOVEMENTS**  
MUDD 102

**SPRING 2006**

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**Course Description:**

This lecture/discussion course will first survey the development of pacifist thought and action from the early Christian tradition and the medieval just war theorists to the radical Christian alternative presented during and after the Reformation. The bulk of our time will be devoted to twentieth century pacifist thought, the development of non-violent direct action protest, and pacifist influence on armament, war, and racial injustice, particularly but not exclusively in the United States.

**READINGS:** Most of the assigned readings will be available on Blackboard. Mainly primary source materials, they include essays, pamphlets, and speeches of pacifists and peace advocates. Our discussions will be based on their careful reading before each class session.

We will also read and discuss one book available in the bookstore: Michael Friedland, *Lift Your Voice Like a Trumpet: White Clergy and the Civil Rights and Antiwar Movements, 1954-1973* (Chapel Hill, 1998).

**ESSAYS:** Students will write two papers for this course. The first essay (5-7 pgs) will summarize and evaluate pacifist thought up to the end of World War I. This will also serve as a midterm exam.

Each student will also elect one of the following options:

**Option #1:** write a longer essay (12-15 pgs) on a major pacifist figure or peace/justice movement in the twentieth century. Generally speaking, it should focus on a person or topic not covered in the assigned readings. Examples would be:

The struggle for peace in Northern Ireland,  
Nelson Mandela's case for nonviolence in South Africa,  
Peace advocates in modern Israel,  
Dag Hammarskjold and the United Nations,  
The pacifist thought of Dorothy Day, etc.

**Option #2:** A longer essay (10-12 pgs) that is a reflection on personal experiences. This can take a number of different forms, but for example, a student might examine the Iraq War protest movement in the Bay Area, interview a number of peace activists and then reflect on the conversations and experience. Another student might examine the local activities and talk to the members of one of the historic peace churches (e.g. Society of Friends, Mennonites) or one of the peace

organizations (e.g. War Resisters League, Fellowship of Reconciliation) to analyze their ethical positions, issues, and concerns.

Each assignment will be worked out in consultation with the instructor.

**FINAL EXAM:** will be an essay exam on the last class day.

## PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

DATES CLASS TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

FEB. 2 Course Introduction.

Peace and War in Christian Understanding: from Tertullian to the Reformation.  
Tertullian, *Of the Soldier's Crown*.  
Thomas Aquinas, "On War" (from *Summa Theologica*)

FEB. 9 The Radical Alternative.

Readings:

Erasmus, *The Complaint of Peace*.  
Luther, *Commentary on the Sermon on the Mount*.  
Calvin, "On Civil Government" (from *Institutes of the Christian Religion*).  
Menno Simons, "The Blasphemy of John of Leiden"; "Exhortation to a Church in Prussia"; and "Reply to False Accusations".

FEB. 16 The Quaker Peace Witness.

Readings:

George Fox, *Journal*.  
William Penn, "An Essay toward the Present and Future Peace of Europe."  
John Woolman, *Journal*, pp. 74-83.

FEB. 23 Pacifism in the Young American Republic.

Readings:

David Low Dodge, *War Inconsistent with the Religion of Jesus Christ*.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, "War".  
William Lloyd Garrison, "Declaration of Sentiments, 1838."  
Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience."

MARCH 2 Opposing Civil War and an American Empire.

Readings:

Henry David Thoreau, "A Plea for Captain John Brown," 1859.

"Documents from the Union and the Confederacy."

Thomas F. Curran, "'Resist Not Evil': The Ideological Roots of Civil War Pacifism," *Civil War History* (1990).

Frank Freidel, "Dissent in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection."

Mark Twain, "Review of Edwin Wildman's Biography of Aguinaldo." (1901).

MARCH 9 The Quest for International Peace.

Readings:

Leo Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God is Within You* (1893).

Leo Tolstoy, *Bethink Yourselves* (1904).

William James, "The Moral Equivalent of War." (1910)

Michael A. Lutzker, "The Formation of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: A Study of the Establishment-Centered Peace Movement, 1910-1914."

MARCH 16 Pacifism and Dissent in World War I.

Readings:

Jane Addams, *Peace and Bread in Time of War*.

Eugene V. Debs, "The Canton, Ohio, Speech." (1918)

Walter Rauschenbush, *A Theology for the Social Gospel*. (1917)

FIRST ESSAY DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY.

MARCH 23 Debating Pacifism Between World Wars.

Readings:

H. Richard Niebuhr, "The Grace of Doing Nothing," *Christian Century*, March 23, 1932; "The Only Way Into the Kingdom of God," *ibid.*, April 6, 1932.

Reinhold Niebuhr, "Must We Do Nothing?" *Christian Century*, March 30, 1932; and "Why I Leave the F.O.R.," *ibid.*, January 3, 1934.

H. Richard Niebuhr, "The Social Gospel and the Mind of Jesus," in *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 16 (1988): 115-27.

SPRING BREAK

APRIL 6 No class today.

APRIL 13 World War II: The Pacifist Position.

Readings:

John Nevin Sayre, "Why Pacifism Holds Me."

Kirby Page, "Pacifism Can Stop Aggression."

A.J. Muste, "What the Bible Teaches About Freedom."

General Conference Mennonite Church, "Statement of Position on Peace, War, Military Service, and Patriotism." (1941).

*The Gist: A Peace Digest.* (excerpts)

The Outline and Bibliography for the Second Essay are due today.

APRIL 20 Gandhi's Non-Violent Protest and Nuclear Pacifism.

Readings:

Gandhi, *The Origins of Satyagraha Doctrine*; "Gandhi's Message to All Men."

*Church Peace Mission, The Christian Conscience and War.* (1953)

John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris.*(1963) (On the Web)

APRIL 27 The Civil Rights Movement.

Readings:

Michael Friedland, *Lift Your Voice Like a Trumpet: White Clergy and the Civil Rights and Antiwar Movements, 1954-1973* (Chapel Hill, 1998), pp. 1-139.

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham City Jail." (1957)

MAY 4 The Peace Movement and the Vietnam War.

Readings:

Friedland, *Lift Your Voice Like a Trumpet*, pp. 140-252.

Thomas Merton, "Blessed Are the Meek: The Christian Roots of Nonviolence."

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam" (1967).

John Courtney Murray, S.J., "Selective Conscientious Objection." (1967).

MAY 11 Nuclear Disarmament and the Iraq Wars.

Readings:

"U.S. Bishops' Summary of their War and Peace Pastoral," *Origins*, June 23, 1983.

U.S. Bishops, "The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace," *Origins*, December 9, 1993.

Drew Christiansen, "Peacemaking the Use of Force: Behind the Pope's Stringent Just-War Teaching," *America* magazine, pp. 13-18.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, "Statement on Iraq" 13 November 2002; and "Statement on War with Iraq," 19 March 2003.

SECOND ESSAY DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CLASS.

MAY 18 FINAL EXAM IN CLASS.