PAX 1000 – Introduction to Peace Studies

**Valencia Community College – Online Course**

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Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is. The most important product of his effort is his own personality. Erich Fromm

The functions of the family in a highly differentiated society are not to be interpreted as functions directly on behalf of the society, but on behalf of personality. Talcott Parsons

The biggest mistake is believing there is one right way to listen, to talk, to have a conversation - or a relationship. Deborah Tannen

**Office Hours:**

Please refer to the Blackboard/Announcements area on the course homepage in reference to office hours.

Since this is an online course, please utilize email (cresnick2@valenciacollege.edu) and or the cell option to reach me the fastest.

**PAX 1000** **Description:**

This elective course is a study of peace in its philosophical, religious, literary, historical and other cultural contexts. The course involves an investigation into the causes of violence on the global and personal levels with emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of peace and the peace movement in historical and contemporary views. In this course, the objective will be to:

* Study the Peace Movement, its dynamics, its philosophies and its leaders.
* Investigate the causes of conflict and violence on a global, national and personal level.
* Explore and learn about examples of successful nonviolent conflict resolution, theories and practice.
* Evaluate interpersonal and intrapersonal values as they relate to conflict
* Assess historical conflict, peace movements and contemporary solutions.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

With the completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to describe the religious and philosophical grounds for the Peace Movement.

2. Students will be able to analyze causes of conflict on global, national and personal level.
3. Students will be able to identify and explain at least three peace movements that have changed the world. .
4. Students will have understanding of interpersonal and intrapersonal aspects of self so as to learn how to resolve conflict.

*This will be accomplished with peaceful discussion, online discussions, films, readings, writings, research, critical thinking and personal reflection.*

**Method of Teaching**

This course will be taught online, where I will try to create an open minded educational environment the best that I can. The course methodology includes reading, video and discussion board. The importance of all of this is for you, the student to learn the material, digest it all and share with everyone your thoughts in a safe and comfortable setting. Whereas in a classroom we can verbally discuss, in this setting we will use typed words to discuss our thoughts and develop our arguments. The assignments are a synthesis of the readings from the textbook, articles and the video’s – they are extensive for your growth and development of a peace ambassador within your future.

Students are expected to read prior to discussion on blackboard and are asked to have cogent arguments in their writing and in their responses. The professor teaches Socratically (student driven), and therefore, the ability to learn is through group interaction. You will be asked questions that pertain to the readings and videos; along with further research - and are requested to ask questions which further develop our knowledge of the material.

**In class expectation**: Since this is an online class, there is no required time that we meet. Therefore I am available through email, telephone or text message on an ongoing basis. I will also login in each day to blackboard and do my best to answer your questions. Grading will be done at the end of each unit, yet I will monitor discussions and interfere if necessary. The dates for all assignments are attached to the outline of the course, which is a separate document to this syllabus, and will be found on blackboard.

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

***REQUIRED:***

* **Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies** by David P. Barash. NY/Oxford University Press, USA; 3rd edition

***Additional Texts I will use for reference:***

* **Two Nations** by Andrew Hacker. Scribner Press ISBN 978-0-7432-3824-3
* **Court of Remorse – Inside the international criminal tribunal for Rwanda** ISBN 978-029923674-8
* **Negotiating Across Cultures** by Raymond Cohen ISBN 9781878379726
* **Personal Conflict Management** by McCorkle and Reese ISBN 9780205499885
* **Interpersonal Conflict** by Wilmot and Hocker ISBN 97800733853136

**IMPORTANT POLICIES**

ATTENDANCE: This is an online classes and does not meet in the same manner that a traditional class does. There are no live meetings, yet I will update through weekly/bi-weekly emails. You are not required to reach out to me, yet if you desire to text or call, those are options to help with your success and further your knowledge.
Assignments will have completion dates, which, if not completed will be considered late and an absence. Logging into blackboard and participating weekly is an expectation. Forgetting to post to blackboard and or to participate each week will be considered an absence. Excessive absences can cause a student to be withdrawn from the class. **Once you reach 3 you are required to get in touch with the instructor within 1 week to discuss your situation. Failure to do so can result in automatic withdrawal from the class.** This is a class that works best when students are involved.

The Drop/Refund deadline is **September 8th 2015 before 11:59PM**

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE: Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class by the withdrawal deadline of **November 13th, 2015 before** **11:59PM** will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of “W.” Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” For a complete policy and procedure overview please go to:

[***http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID\_1=4&navst=0***](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID_1=4&navst=0)

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Students must do work which is completely a result of their own efforts - NO EXCEPTIONS. Cheating or plagiarizing in any way can ultimately result in dismissal from the class and expulsion from the college. Any assignments completed in this manner will be given zero credit with further action up to the discretion of the instructor. **Plagiarism** - the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work.

LATE WORK: All assignments are due before the assigned day and time. Late work will be accepted with a 10% per day penalty. Late reflection papers can be turned into the assignment box (blackboard), while any late postings need to be posted online.

CONDUCT: As a registered student at Valencia College, you assume the responsibility for knowing and adhering to the general rules of good conduct as listed in the current student handbook. This is an online class focused on peace and justice – any abusive or intolerant behavior is unacceptable. Any violation will result in a verbal warning followed by withdrawal from the course. Remember, simple respect for the instructor and your classmates is a must in this class. For example:

* **When you are involved in the course - be part of the discussion, participate with respect and share with your peers in the way you would appreciate. Also make sure to comment in full sentence.**
* **Respect others by listening and processing what they are saying, then respond. Respond with respect even if you do not agree.**
* **Be present physically and mentally in all of your work.**

Throughout the course the instructor will ALWAYS be available for help if needed. Please feel comfortable in contacting the instructor. If a student has any disabilities or special circumstances that might affect his/her performance in the course, please inform the instructor.

* **IMPORTANT!!** Any computer problems encountered during the semester must be **IMMEDIATELY** communicated to the instructor. Failure to do so could result in course work being considered late or not being accepted at all which could ultimately result in a final grade reduction and/or failure in the class.

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**EVALUATION**

Grades are based on a point system and will be determined by the results of various assignments. This will be assessed as follows:

 **REQUIRED** - Writing Assignments:

* Textbook/article Readings - Reflections x5 (3+ pages) 125
* Blackboard Participation – 5 postings 10 responses (400+ Words) 125
* Films/Videos analysis – 5 postings, 10 Responses (250+ Words) 100

 **REQUIRED** – Self created Video Reflection (PSA) 75

TOTAL 425

**Grade Chart:**

360-400 = A

320-359 = B

280-319 = C

240-318 = D

 0-239 = F

**REQUIRED – Article Reflections.** Each assignment will have directions in what is expected of you under the Unit Assignments are of Blackboard.

**1**. Please place your **name, course, and date at the top of the page. The rest of the paper is double spaced.**  You are expected to write from your own perspective and use the knowledge gained from the text, articles and personal experience. Copying and pasting assignments is not acceptable. The assignment needs to be clear in your writing and utilize complete sentences. Review the attached rubric for my expectations for grading.

**Rubric for writing assignments**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rubric: Assessment**  | **Points Possible**  |
| Content | 10 |
| Grammar/Spelling | 2 |
| Clarity | 8 |
| Analysis | 5 |
|  | 25 |

**2**. Your writing assignments needs to be on point. Make a persuasive argument explaining why you feel the information you are sharing is important. Your document needs to be clearly written and I am looking to see that you have analyzed the information with thought, not just shared what the text or the news told you.

**3. All assignments should be written in one of the following four file formats - .rtf, .doc, .docx or .pdf and attached rather than writing it in the box *unless otherwise stated in the directions*.** This is basically Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. If your paper is not in one of these formats, I will not grade it which means a zero will be given for the assignment and you will not be able to revise it.

**4**. Use proper essay format -- introductory paragraph including opening/introductory statement, double spacing, a few paragraphs (body), and a conclusion tying your paper all together. If you do not meet these requirements, you will lose precious points!

**5**. Writing assignments represent the student’s chance to demonstrate their ability to present a clear and concise thought process in the form of a reflection paper.

 **FIRST** – Summarize what you learned from the reading/film/video/lectures.

**SECOND** - Please REACT and then REFLECT prior to writing. Think about what you’ve learned and provide a reasonably intelligent reflection. Analyze the material and your own thoughts in your reflection. Then synthesize the two and write from own perspective using critical thinking skills (see “Critical Thinking Standards” link on course home page). In other words, tell the instructor exactly what YOU think – THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Don’t just regurgitate material from the text or other books – mix the correct book (or other source) information and your own thoughts together to show that you understand the material and have thought about it in a critical manner. Show the instructor that you can reflect on a subject, think critically about the content and your own thoughts, and then write with passion and reasonable intelligence. PLEASE answer the questions within the assignment. If you do NOT follow these guidelines, you will not do well on the assignment!

**6. ALL** writing assignments should be proofread before you turn it in to BlackBoard.

**REQUIRED – 5 Discussion Board Postings: 10 Responses**The directions for the specific discussion questions can be found in the “Discussions” area of BlackBoard.

Please share with the class what you have learned through reading of the material and for the Units that have an assignment, what you learned in this context as well. The points may not be large, yet I am asking for you to learn and share what it means to be at peace. Upon completion of your analysis, please read other people’s work so you can learn from each other, not just the texts and assignments. The point of these postings is to expand on the reading and to enhance your knowledge by reading people’s perspectives. Peace is an owned world view, and these postings are to explain yours and to enhance your knowledge of others.

There are 5 REQUIRED Discussion Posts. Everyone must provide their own answer to these questions. I expect at least 400 words for these REQUIRED Discussion Posts (no more than 1000 words please). Please include your word count at the end of the post or it will lose points. Your 5 posts will consist of responses to specific questions posted by the instructor. You are to use information taken directly from the book (not copied), articles, assignments and real life experience. You may use comments from what you learn from others and other course discussions as well.

You are to then review the words of other students and share your thoughts on 2 other postings. You may respond to more and if a conversation begins on a posting (my desire) remember to be respectful.

All discussion post areas open 2 weeks prior to their due date. However, each REQUIRED discussion post has a specific due date (missing the date means a loss of 10% per day) so PLEASE pay attention to it! The idea is to have “conversations” with your fellow students throughout the semester. You can always do more than 5 posts (extra postings are not worth extra credit) and/or responses to other student posts but you must have completed 5 posts over the course of the semester.

If you respond to someone else’s post by writing “ditto” or you copy someone else’s post and use it as your own (plagiarism rules apply to the latter case), I will not count it.

**REQUIRED – 4 Video (Movie) Discussion Board Postings: 10 Responses**Considering the same model mentioned above, there will be 5 required movies I would like you to watch through the semester. Each has a due date and I expect your response to be yours. After watching the movie, go ahead and respond in the same manner that you did for the readings.

There are 4 REQUIRED Video (movie) Posts. Everyone must provide their own answer to these questions. I expect at least 400 words for these REQUIRED Discussion Posts (no more than 1000 words please). Please include your word count at the end of the post or it will lose 5 points. Your 4 posts will consist of responses to specific questions posted by the instructor. You are to use information taken directly from the book (not copied), articles, videos and real life experience. You may use comments from our class discussions as well, please reference the class and time the conversation occurred.

You are to then review the words of other students and share your thoughts on 2 other postings. You may respond to more and if a conversation begins on a posting (my desire) remember to be respectful.

All discussion post areas open on the first day of the semester. However, each REQUIRED discussion post has a specific due date (missing the date means a loss of 10% per day) so PLEASE pay attention to it! The idea is to have “conversations” with your fellow students throughout the semester. You can always do more than 5 posts (extra postings are not worth extra credit) and/or responses to other student posts but you must have completed 5 posts over the course of the semester.

If you respond to someone else’s post by writing “ditto” or you copy someone else’s post and use it as your own (plagiarism rules apply to the latter case), I will not count it.

**REQUIRED – 1 Video (Self-Created PSA) involving the Peace Movement (Group)**This is a course focused on Peace and the Peace Movement. As we move through the course, you are being tasked with creating a Public Service Announcement video. You may use other people to help you to create this video. The video will be turned in as your final grade. Within the video you need to use research based information to create a video between 5 and 15 minutes long. You are tasked with developing a peace narrative. Your topic is broad, in that you can use any conflict message and work to alter for the betterment of society. The video will be turned into Blackboard as part of your assignment and I would like for you to also turn it into YOUTUBE (Optional). I do need to be able to see it though, so when uploading to Blackboard or YouTube please make sure it is complete and unlocked.

This assignment will be based on the following rubric

 **Rubric for video assignment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rubric: Assessment**  | **Points Possible**  |
| Content | 20 |
| Message | 15 |
| Clarity  | 15 |
| Analysis | 25 |
|  | 75 |

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor as soon as possible. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

**Osceola Campus - Bldg. 2, Rm. 140A
Ph: 407-582-4167
Fax: 407-582-4804
TTY: 407-582-1222**

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: Policies and procedures specific to this course may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; students will be advised of any changes through BlackBoard email.