

FYS Section Y Course Syllabus

Elizabethtown College, Fall 2005

Where Was God on Sept. 11?

Religion, Violence, & Peacemaking in a World of Terror

Time: Tues and Thursday 2 p.m.

Room: Young Center Seminar Room

Instructor: Donald B. Kraybill

Office: Young Center

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: 1469 or 1470

E-mail: kraybilld@etown.edu

Required Texts

Hedges, Chris. *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning*. Anchor Books (Random House), 2002

Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*.
Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

Kraybill, Donald B. and Linda Gehman Peachey, eds. *Where Was God on Sept 11?
Seeds of Faith and Hope*, Herald Press, 2002.

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*. Signet Classic. 1998.

Course Description

The seminar will introduce students to the habits of scholarship and the academic expectations of college life for intellectual development and performance. The thematic focus of the seminar will explore the connections between religion, violence, and peacemaking since September 11. The course will explore the religious values and motivations for both violence and peacemaking. Special attention will be given to the war in Iraq as well as to the response of the Historic Peace Churches—Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers to the war in Iraq and the war on terror.

Course Objectives for Students

1. Learn the academic expectations of college life, the habits of scholarship, and intellectual practices of critical analysis and synthesis.
2. Establish writing as a principal means by which educated people think, understand, and communicate as well as the skills of reading, listening, and speaking.
3. Explore the religious values that motivate people to engage in both violence and peacemaking.
4. Appreciate the complexity and formation of values that shape perceptions and inspire humans to kill and forbid killing for religious reasons.
5. Become familiar with the library as a major repository of knowledge by using its resources to prepare a research paper.
6. Analyze primary source materials and compare various interpretations of how religious communities and movements respond to violence.
7. Learn the established standards of academic integrity for scholarly work
8. Develop an attitude of enthusiasm and a genuine intellectual curiosity for learning about how religious values can inspire people to both kill and/or die for religion.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance. Includes participation in assigned activities, class discussion, simulations, critique of colleagues’ writing, presentation of research findings, and completion of assigned readings. **Attendance at all Wednesday at 11 Colloquiums is required.** Attendance at one of the productions of Twelfth Night is also required.
2. Completion of quizzes on assigned reading.
3. Completion of four short papers on assigned topics
3. Preparation of a research paper (and proposal).
4. Completion of a mid term and a final exam.

Course Components and Grading Scheme

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| 1. Participation (class discussion, assignments, simulations, research presentations,) | 10% |
| 2. Quizzes | 10% |
| 3. Mid Term Exam | 10% |
| 4. Short Papers (four) | 20% |
| 5. Research Paper | 30% |
| 6. Final Exam | 20% |

Grading

The six components when averaged together by their relative importance will generate a course grade based on the following scale:

90 – 100 pts	A	Excellent
80 – 89 pts	B	Good
70 – 79 pts	C	Average
60 – 69 pts	D	Poor
below 60 pts	F	Failing

A plus and minus grading system is used to make finer distinctions within each grade, eg:

- 70–72 = C-
- 73–76 = C
- 77–79 = C+

Sample Grade Calculation

Participation	85% x .10 =	8.5 pts	
Quizzes	75% x .10 =	7.5 pts	
Mid Term	90% x .10 =	9.0 pts	
Short Papers	70% x .20 =	14.0 pts	
Research Paper	90% x .30 =	27.0 pts	
Final Exam	60% x .20 =	12.0 pts	
Total:		78.0 pts	Grade = C+

Evaluation of Written Work

Spelling, grammar, style, and appearance will be considered in determining the grade for all written work in the course! All papers (except in-class quizzes) must be typewritten. Late papers will be reduced by a letter grade unless you have obtained prior permission for an alternate date.

Examinations

The mid term and final exam will consist of essay questions covering assigned readings and material presented in class and they may stretch your imagination! The questions will be randomly selected from a previously distributed list. Weekly quizzes (11) will cover assigned material designated in the course calendar. The quiz may be a one page written assignment or a classroom quiz. Notes prepared for simulations will also be considered as quizzes. Quizzes can not be made up, but the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped from the quiz grade calculation.

Class Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend class regularly, to be prepared to discuss the assigned material, to engage in class discussions, and to participate in assigned class activities. Erratic attendance and poor participation will adversely affect the class participation component of your grade. **Attendance at all Wednesday at 11 Colloquiums is required.** Quiz questions or exam questions may cover material presented in the Wednesday at 11 colloquiums.

Simulations

Several class sessions will feature a simulation/debate that reflects conflicts related to violence and peacemaking involving religious groups. Notes for the simulations should be prepared in advance and presented to the instructor on the date of the simulation. The notes will be graded and considered as an additional quiz. Verbal participation in the simulation will be included in the class participation grade. A list of topics and resources for the simulations will be distributed in class.

Four Short Papers

Four short papers (2 pages) will be assigned on various topics (announced in class) related to the course. The purpose of these essays is to learn to analyze issues and to critically evaluate the work of other writers and scholars. The papers may involve writing a persuasive essay, analyzing an issue, and critiquing a book or a published essay. Those that are critiques should address the following questions: 1) What is the author's central idea, thesis or argument? 2) What sources of data, evidence or arguments does the author use to support the thesis? 3) What counter arguments or alternative evidence or explanations might challenge the author's conclusion? 4) What are the implicit or explicit biases that shape the author's point of view?

Research Paper: Religious Interpretations/Motivations for War and Peace in Iraq

Length: 10 pages of text (typed, 12 pt font, [Times New Roman], 1.5 spacing, .90 margins).

Submission: The research paper will be submitted in several stages so you can benefit from feedback to your writing from your instructor and your peers.

Dates: Research Outline: Oct 13; First Two pages: Oct 25; First Five pages: Nov 10; Final Version: December 6.

Method: Compare and contrast conflicting religious views on the war in Iraq.

Sources: The research paper should utilize at least 10 different sources, including primary source materials whenever possible.

Citation: It is important to use proper scholarly documentation. A standard documentation style may be any recognized format [MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.]. It is very important to use one documentation style consistently.

Organization of Research Paper: Pay careful attention to the organization of your paper. Use subheads throughout to separate major ideas. Include an Introduction or Overview and a Summary/Conclusion.

Presentation of Research Findings: Each student will be expected to present their research findings in class.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. If you have a documented disability and need reasonable accommodations to fully participate in the course activities or meet course requirements, you must: 1) contact the Director of Disability Services, Shirley Deichert in the Center for Student Success, BSC 228 (361-1227), deichesa@etown.edu and 2) meet with me, the instructor, within two weeks of receiving a copy of the accommodation letter from Disability Services to discuss your accommodation needs and their implementation.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You are expected to follow the highest standards of academic integrity and honor. Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic integrity and according to College Policy could **result in a course grade of F**. See *College Catalog* (p. 238-239). Academic dishonesty is a serious issue and you will be held responsible for the full consequences of any violations. Academic integrity applies to exams, written work, use of Internet resources, and any other information that you present as your own. Inappropriate use of the ideas or work of others without full acknowledgement is considered plagiarism. Please read and be familiar with the booklet *Academic Integrity at Elizabethtown College*.

In this course, if you write, “pledged,” on your papers and exams, it will mean, “I have not used the work or ideas of others without acknowledgement. This solely represents my work and ideas.” I encourage you to “pledge” all of your papers and exams.

The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, the course requirements, and calendar at any time throughout the semester.

Fall 2005 Course Schedule (Tentative)

The schedule will be updated and revised early in the semester.

Code to authors: K&P=Kraybill and Peachey; J=Juergensmeyer; H=Hedges

Date	Topic/Activity	Assigned Reading
August		
30 T	Introduction	
September		
1 TH		K&P: Chapters 1, 2
6 T	Q	K&P:3,4,5
8 TH	Focus: Religious Activities at EC	
13 T	Q	K&P: 6,7
15 TH	Focus: Learning Center (class meets there) Paper I Due	
20 T	Q	J: 1,2
22 TH	Focus: High Library I (meet in library)	
27 T	Q	J: 3,4
29 TH	Focus: High Library II (meet in library)	
October		
3	(Early Warning)	
6 TH	Fall Break: Class does not meet	
11 T	Q Focus: Who Wrote Shakespeare’s Plays? Valerie Reed	J: 7-8

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13 TH	Focus: International Study at EC. Jim Hilton Research Paper Outline is due. Paper II Due	
18 T	Mid Term Exam	
19	(Mid Term)	
20 TH	Focus: The Twelfth Night. Prof. Severid	
25 T	Q Research Paper. First two pages are due	J: 9,10,11
27 TH		
November		
1 T	Q	Twelfth Night
3 TH		
8 T	Q Paper III Due	H: Intro, 1
10 TH	Research Paper. First five pages are due.	
15 T	Q	H: 2, 3
17 TH		
22 T	Q	H: 4, 5
24 TH	(Thanksgiving!)	
29 T	Q Paper IV Due	H: 6,7
December		
1 TH	Research Presentations	
6 T	Research Presentations Research Paper is DUE	
8 TH	(Last Class) Summary and Preparation for Final Exam	
12-16	Final Exam	