Siena Heights University
RST 410 - Peacemaking

Instructor: James Owens, B.S., M.A., LLPC
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Course Website: http://www.lcc.edu/personal/owensj

Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Texts:  

Course Description: This reading, discussion and writing intensive course transforms individuals with a variety of majors and experiences into a community of learner-teachers who discover and develop the peacemaking possibilities in their disciplines and vocations. The life and writings of peacemakers will serve as the critical voices that challenge us to move from ideas of peace to convicted peacemakers. The learning process is a conversation in which global moral dilemmas are reviewed from the vantage point of peacemaking (not crisis management, not conflict as a means of resolution, not peacekeeping). Students propose peacemaking means for resolving dilemmas within vocations.

Course Outcomes: Explain key theological and philosophical concepts that are foundational to peacemaking
Insightfully discuss and apply ethical theories within a framework of Christian concern.
Reflect on his/her experience in order to theologically interpret it.
Think critically in theological interpretation and engage in societal peacemaking.
Understand the relationship between spiritual values and life.
Articulate his/her own theology built upon the foundations of gospel values and Jesus’ teachings.
Analyze a host of ethical problems and offer potential peaceful solutions.

Course Strategies: This professor strongly believes in learning by doing, therefore you will be expected to be an ACTIVE student in this course; the learning outcomes largely rely on your ability to personally engage the topics of the course.

Course Policies: Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made, or a medical emergency has occurred. Technological devices must not disrupt class and shall be utilized in class only for class related activity.
Grading: Students will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled meetings, read the required materials, and complete assignments. The responsibility for determining grades rests with the instructor and reflects the student’s achievement of the academic goals set for each course. Grades are recorded at the close of each semester in the following terms: Grades will be based on the following scale: Grade Percent (A+ 100-99%) (A 98-97%) (A- 96-94%) (B+ 93-91%) (B 90-88%) (B- 87-85%) (C+ 84-82%) (C 81-79%) (C- 78-76%) (D+ 75-73%) (D 72-70%) (D- 69-67%) (E 66-00%)

Academic Dishonesty Policy:
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if demonstrated will result in failure of the course. Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior which violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments or examinations and plagiarism. Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. It includes, but is not limited to, verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation, submission of a paper prepared by another person as one's own work, using the ideas, facts, words, or data of someone else and claiming them as your own, or not documenting ideas, facts, words, or data gathered during research.

Non-Discrimination and Academic Accommodations Policy:
It is the policy of Siena Heights University not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, religion, or sexual orientation, in the admission or access to or treatment in any university programs and activities or any aspects of employment by the university. To maintain the University’s commitment to the policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability and to ensure the university’s continuing compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Siena Heights University has designated the Director of Human Resources as the coordinator of university compliance.

Siena Heights University is committed to providing a learning environment that benefits all students. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 all reasonable accommodations will be made to meet the documented needs of students. The Siena Accommodations Policy for Students with Disabilities requires a student to provide written documentation of his/her disability to the Academic Advising Office. If you require special accommodations, it is your responsibility to notify each instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. In accordance with University policy and the equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me for an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be done in a timely manner and are not retroactive.
Assignments:
The final grade for this course will be determined by how each student completes all of the requirements. No grade of incomplete will be given in this course. Students are expected to do all the work to the best of their ability. Each student is expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Attendance
Attendance is required. Up to one missed class may be excused for mitigating circumstances. A second will result in the final grade being dropped a full letter. Any portion thereafter will result in failure of the course.

Notes
Write or type 1-2 pages of notes taken while reading the assigned week’s chapter. Notes are worth 10 points per chapter.

Individual Essays
Students will write an assigned essay following each class meeting (except the last) based on the chapter readings and class discussions. Essays will be graded according to the degree of complexity in thoughtfulness, as well as the use of proper grammar and spelling. Each of the essays is worth 15 points.

Group Essays
Students will complete in-class group essays. Small group members will discuss concepts presented from the textbooks and lectures. Students will then report the fruits of these discussions in written essay format. Essays will be graded according to the degree of complexity in thoughtfulness, the ability to articulately report consensus or non-consensus conclusions or beliefs, as well as the use of proper grammar and spelling. Each of the essays is worth 15 points.

Final Paper
Students will write a 5-6 page paper on a topic to be determined by the Instructor. The paper shall be graded according to conformity to APA format, degree of complexity in thoughtfulness, and degree of thoroughness in addressing the topic. The paper will be worth 40 points. Students will also present their papers in class to stimulate conversation, which will be worth an additional 15 points.