

# WAGING PEACE THROUGH CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

**University of Tübingen, in Cooperation with Oregon State University**

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Spring 2021, Syllabus (Version 04/09/2021)

## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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The course provides students with a unique opportunity to develop a global diversity perspective in communication and dialogue. Students will explore their own identity and positionality in the world in a way that allows them to develop empathetic skills that are critical to developing a more secure, healthy, and just world. Utilizing the skills of appreciative inquiry, appreciative curiosity and a variety of dialogic techniques, students will be able to engage some of the world's most compelling issues: immigration, poverty and development, extremism, xenophobia/racism, sexism, religious, cultural, and political divisions.

## 2. COURSE SCHEDULE

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### **04/30/2021: Session I: Introduction**

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Welcome, Syllabus, Format, Assignments

### **05/07/2021: Transatlantic Students Symposium**

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No regular class session, but invited to student conference sessions

### **05/14/2021: Session II: How Do We Relate to Each Other**

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- Identity and Positionality
- Relation between the Self and the Other

Readings:

- Erich Fromm (1956): *The Art of Loving*,  
Foreword (p. xix-xxi),  
Chapter I "Is Love an Art" (p. 1-6),  
Chapter II "The Theory of Love" (p. 7-82)

- Bobbie Harro (2000): The Cycle of Socialization.

### **05/21/2021: Session III: Understanding Myself and Others**

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- Define diversity, equity, inclusion through explorations of identity and positionality
- Understand and confront internal and national bias by unpacking stereotypes
- Learn how to use Appreciative Inquiry and Appreciative Curiosity for ourselves and the world around us
- Develop a mindfulness mindset

#### Readings:

- Erich Fromm (1956): *The Art of Loving*  
Chapter III "Love and Its Disintegration ..." (83-106),  
Chapter IV The Practice of Love (107-132)
- Kwame Anthony Appiah (2016): "There Is No Such Thing As Western Culture"
- Ibram X. Kendi (2019): *How to Be an Antiracist*, Summary
- Edward Said (1979): *Orientalism*, Definition
- Short Video: Media Theorized: Edward Said

### **05/28/2021: Session IV: Waging Peace Through Cross-Cultural Understanding**

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- Define different conceptions of peace, conflict, and violence;
- Identify key peacebuilding priorities;
- Describe how context and perspective influence the peacebuilding process; and
- Identify the different tools, types of interventions, and strategies for building peace.

#### Readings:

- Marcus Aurelius (180): *Meditations*, Excerpts
- Philip Pecorino (N.D.): Kant, The Categorical Imperative, and the Golden Rule
- Immanuel Kant (1795): *Perpetual Peace*
- Rüdiger Kunow (2011): *Unavoidably Side by Side*

### **06/04/2021: Session V: Understanding conflict and negotiation**

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- Describe the two main components of any negotiation process;
- Identify different conflict styles; and
- Explain how different conflict styles may arise in a negotiation.

#### Readings:

- Hannah Arendt (1971): *Thinking and Moral Considerations*
- Mattias Iser (2019): *Recognition* (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

#### Assignment Due:

- **Response Paper “What Is Peace”, Monday 06/7, by 8 PM Pacific Time**

#### **06/11/2021: Session VI: Mediating Difference**

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- Describe the importance of mediation
- Define mediation and identify the roles mediators play;
- Identify the role identity plays in mediation; and
- Recognize the basic principles behind effective mediation.

Readings:

- Karl Popper (1986): Utopia and Violence
- Theodor Adorno (1966): Education after Auschwitz

#### **06/18/2021: Session VII: Community Based-Dialogue**

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- Distinguish dialogue from other conflict resolution processes;
- Determine when community-based dialogue is an appropriate process to manage a conflict; and
- Design a community-based dialogue process in their own geographical and social context.

Readings:

- Ratnesh Nagda et al. (2008): Dialogue, discussion, and debate.
- Matthew Kelly (2019): Paulo Freire’s Five Ideas for Dialogical Learning

#### **06/25/2021: Session VIII: Role of Media and the Arts**

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- Describe how media and the arts contribute to peacebuilding;
- Consider the impact media and the arts have on the individual and how that may influence peacebuilding;
- Identify the role media and the arts have in fostering a culture of peace; and
- Describe the role of media and the arts have in post-conflict societies.

Readings:

- Joseph Nye (1990): Soft Power
- Short Video: Media Theorized: Stuart Hall

#### **07/02/2021: Session IX: Student Presentation, Session I**

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- **Assignment 2: Research Presentation, Due July 2**

#### **07/09/2021: Session X: Student Presentation, Session II + Conclusion**

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- **Assignment 3: Research Paper, Due End of July (TBC)**

### 3. ASSIGNMENTS

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- Assignment 1: Response Paper “What Is Peace”, Due Nov 2. 2 pages, 10 points
- Assignment 2: Research Presentation, Due Dec 11. 10 points (TBC)
- Assignment 3: Research Paper, Due End of December (TBC). 20 points

### 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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