What is peace? Is it more or less likely after the events of the last few years? How can we deal with conflict at all levels? What is war? Is terrorism war? Is the “war on terrorism” war? What about the war on drugs?

War and peace have generally been thought of as central problems of international politics. They are increasingly recognized as problems of human relations and domestic politics as well. This course explores questions of whether human aggression is inevitable, whether war is inevitable, or desirable, or whether it can or should be abolished. Is war a moral question, an economic question, a question of psychology, or of politics? What alternatives are there to nuclear deterrence and war and coercion? Is war related to domestic violence? How do we respond to terrorism, violence, and coercion, individually and collectively? How are human rights and human needs related to peace? How is peace related to justice? What are the conditions of a peaceful world?

Materials to be obtained
New York Times daily August 22 – December 11 (subscribe UH Bookstore)
Most of the readings are xeroxed articles which will be on WebCT and available for copying.

Requirements
You are expected to complete readings before the class listed and to be able to discuss them in class. Class participation is mandatory.
Class discussion, NYT abstracts, and in-class writing/reaction papers (15%)
Data exercise/paper Sept. 28 (20% ). (See handout.)
Letter to the editor or letter to Member of Congress or the President on war/peace issues Nov. 9 (10%) (See handout.)
Mid-term exam/essay Oct. 31 (25%). Final exam/essay Dec. 12 (30%).

Schedule of Classes

I.  WAR AS A MORAL AND POLITICAL QUESTION

Is war moral? Are there certain circumstances when the use of armed force is justified, and others when it is not? How does an individual choose whether to support a particular war? Is there such a thing as a "just war" using modern means of warfare?

Aug. 22  Introduction and Administrivia  
   "Just War Theory" and nuclear weapons  
   Potter, "The Moral Logic of War" (in Beitz & Herman, 1973)

Aug. 24  US decisions to go to war  
   Bernstein, Barton, "The Dropping of the A-Bomb."  
   The Center Magazine  (March/April 1983)  

Aug. 29  "Just War Theory" vs. pacifism. Peace and Justice.  

II.  THEORIZING CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND WAR

What are the causes of conflict, violence and war? Some believe that war is the result of innate human tendencies, while others believe that it is a social invention used to achieve certain ends. Are democracies less prone to war? Is war implicit in the nation-state system, or can nation-states exist without war? Will there always be wars while oppression exists?

Aug. 31  Human aggression, Power and Obedience  
   Corning, "Human Violence: Some Causes and Implications."  
   Mead, "Warfare is only an Invention - Not a Biological Necessity."
Fromm, "Paranoia and Policy"
“Statement on Violence” 1986 (“the Seville Statement”)
VIDEO: Milgram’s “Obedience”

Sept. 5 Government, social contracts, the nation-state, & revolution
Hobbes, "On the Natural Condition of Mankind"

III. HUMAN NEEDS AND THE ECONOMY OF WAR: GUNS VS. BUTTER?

War preparation has become big business since World War II, so big that some say that it has led to the development of an economic and social system that is guided by military rather than civilian needs. How do our institutions influence our ways of thinking and vice versa? How have the vast sums of money spent on the military affected the economy? The environment? Can we convert from military to civilian production without hurting the economy? What are the tradeoffs between military spending and social services?

Sept. 7 Military-industrial complex
Eisenhower, "Farewell Address"
Pilisuk and Hayden, "Is there a Military-Industrial Complex that Prevents Peace?"

Sept. 12 The military budget and the “guns vs. butter” hypothesis
"How Congress Passes the Defense Budget" (xerox)
"US Military Spending 1951-1993" (graph/xerox)
“The costs of military might.” (xerox)
UNDP. Human Development Report 2003, Tables 1-30
Please develop your own hypotheses from data and be prepared to map or graph these and discuss in class.

Lab session (Saunders 342): The Millennium Development Goals, scattergrams and regression analysis.
IV. WEAPONS AND WARS: NORTH-SOUTH AND OTHER CONFLICTS

While there has not been a direct military confrontation between the superpowers, there have been over 130 wars with combined casualties of over 30 million since World War II. Many of these wars have occurred in the former colonies of major powers in the "Third World". What is the relationship between these wars and actions of the major powers? How do arms sales affect the developing nations? Have the dimensions of conflict changed? Do we conceive of security differently after the cold war?

Sept. 14 New conflict contexts and security

Sept. 19 Recent and current wars
The Evolution of War
See esp. link to Sudan/Darfur.
Why Bosnia, why Rwanda?

V. DEFENSE, DETERRENCE, THE ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR WAR

Arising out of the Cold War, deterrence has guided much of superpower foreign policy over the last fifty years. Has deterrence worked? Has there been a "Russian threat" or an Islamic threat that justifies larger American weapons systems? Can American weapons meet their supposed missions? What would a nuclear war mean to our allies and the globe? Is the nuclear threat gone? Can deterrence deter terrorism?
Sept. 21  US security during and after the Cold War
Patterson, "A Historical View of American Security," AMIS
Mearsheimer, John, "Why we will soon miss the Cold War,"

Sept. 26  Deterrence, power and violence
Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence"
Arkin, "Nuclear War in Triplicate", Bulletin of the
Atomic
C.D.I. "Does the United States Need Nuclear Weapons?"
Defense Monitor
McNamara, "Mutual Deterrence"
VIDEO: “AT THE BRINK”

VI. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

Disarmament has long been a goal of peace movements and often
governments as well. But nuclear weapons changed the character of the
debate. In the 1960's the concept of arms control came about and in many
ways superseded the disarmament debate. What are the differences
between arms control and disarmament? Is arms control central to a
peaceful world? How are issues of nuclear proliferation addressed by
different participants in the debate?

Sept. 28  Arms control vs. disarmament: bilateral and multilateral
Sivard, “Arms Control and Disarmament Agreements,”
World Military and Social Expenditures, pp.28-29.
York, "A Little Arms Control Can be a Dangerous Thing"

PAPER #1 DUE: Graphing exercise and discussion paper on
human security and the Millennium Development Goals.

Oct. 3  Vertical and horizontal proliferation
Non-Proliferation Treaty (1970)
Yergin, "The Terrifying Prospect: Atomic Bombs Everywhere"
Myrdal, "The High Price of the Nuclear Arms Monopoly"
VIDEO: "HAVES AND HAVE NOTS"

Oct. 5  Current arms control and disarmament initiatives
Guest speaker: Dr. Michael Jones, UH Department of Physics
Oct. 10  Conventional arms sales and attempts to control them
   Lwanda, George. “Conflict Diamonds and the African ‘resource curse’,” Conflict Trends
   FCNL, “A Code of Conduct on Arms Sales.”

Oct. 12  After 9/11: Countering Terrorism

VII. ALTERNATIVE SECURITY SYSTEMS

What is security? Are there viable alternatives to the use of violence in our global system, and if so, how can these be institutionalized? Can the United Nations resolve conflicts and maintain peace in the world? Would a global legal system enforced by a world government bring security, or repression, or be too unwieldy to work at all? Can alternative security systems arise from smaller efforts at regional integration or conflict resolution? How can we protect ourselves?

Oct. 17  Collective security and its alternatives

Oct. 19  World federalism/world government
   Clark, "Introduction to World Peace through World Law"
   Claude, "World Government"
   CLASS DEBATE
United Nations Charter: excerpts, esp. Ch. VI and VII.

Oct. 26  Preventive diplomacy, U.N. peacekeeping and security
Groom, A.J.R., "The Question of Peace and Security" in
Taylor and Groom, International Institutions at Work
Stephenson, Carolyn. “Peacekeeping and Peacemaking,” in
Ross, "Peace Briganders help Central Americans..."
Video: “THE BLUE HELMETS”

Oct. 31  MID-TERM EXAM

Nov. 2  Human needs, human rights, functionalism and regionalism.
Mitrany, "The Functional Alternative"
Russett, "Causes of Peace" In AMIS
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Dec. 10, 1948)
www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm

Nov. 7  HOLIDAY: ELECTION DAY

VIII. NONVIOLENCE, NONVIOLENCE AND NONVIOLENCE

Nonviolence is the most radical challenge to the perceived need for the use
of violent force. As a political strategy, nonviolence has been used
successfully throughout history. Proponents argue that it is the only way to
bring about lasting change. Opponents argue that it is not feasible. Can
nonviolence work? Is it an end or a means, or both?

Nov. 9  “Principled nonviolence”
Gandhi, "On Nonviolence" (both), "Satyagraha or Passive
Resistance", and "Some Picketing Rules"
Horsburgh, "The Bases of Satyagraha"
VIDEO: GANDHI

PAPER #2 DUE: A letter to the editor, or Member of Congress.
Nov. 14  “Pragmatic nonviolent action” and civilian-based defense
Sharp, "Disregarded History, the Power of Nonviolent Action."
Sharp.  There Are Realistic Alternatives.  (Boston:  The
Albert Einstein Institution, 2003)
Schelling, "Some Questions on Civilian Defense"
recommended:  Sharp, The Politics of Nonviolent Action
(1973) (3 vols.) See esp. chapter 1.
Sharp, "Making the Abolition of War a Realistic Goal," AMIS
VIDEO:  “A Force More Powerful” Part I

Nov. 16  Violence and nonviolence, power, coercion and casualties.
Hardin, Garrett.  "Tragedy of the Commons,"  Science
(www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/162/3859/1243)
Deming, "Nonviolence and Casualties"
Deats, Richard. "The Global Spread of Active Nonviolence"
VIDEO:  “A Force More Powerful” Part II

Nov. 21  A case study:  the Middle East
Awad, Mubarak E.  "Non-Violent Resistance:  A Strategy for
the Occupied Territories,"  Journal of Palestine Studies
(Summer 1984) pp. 22-36.
NYT articles on Awad and Rashmawi.

Nov. 23  HOLIDAY:  THANKSGIVING

IX.  CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Nov. 28  Conflict resolution:  East and West
Shook, Victoria E.  "Ho'oponopono: A Description,"
Prutzman, Priscilla "Children's Creative Response
to Conflict", in AMIS
recommended:  Roger Fisher and William Ury, Getting to Yes.
Nov. 30  International conflict resolution
   Curle, "Mediation: Steps on the Long Road..."
   Yarrow, "Unofficial Third Party Conciliation in
   International Conflicts" in AMIS
   Kriesberg, "Noncoercive Inducements in International Conflict”
   in AMIS

X. INDIVIDUAL ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Society is always in change. How do we act responsibly for the society we
are in? How can we strengthen those aspects of society that we think are
good and work to change those which need improvement? What are the
best places to take action, and what are the methods? Is action for social
change really an individual effort or does it involve working in community
with others?

Dec. 5  Individual choices
   Durning, Alan. "Asking How Much is Enough," in Lester
   Brown et al. State of the World
   “A Sense of Proportion or, When is Enough Enough?”
   Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
   Walzer, "Strategic Choices"
   Pickus and Woito, "What Can I Do? 23 Answers"
   rec.: Washburn and Wehr, "Working for Peace and Justice"
   Beitz and Washburn, "On Choosing a Social Change Vocation"

Dec. 7  Social movements and social change
   & Justice for the 21st Century. (www.haguepeace.org)
   Beitz and Washburn, "Questions for Yourself and Others"
   Berrigan, "The Price of Peace"
   Thoreau, "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience"

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 9:45-11:45 a.m.  FINAL EXAM