

Model Syllabus: WOMEN IN PEACE

If I were going to teach a course today on *Women in Peace*, this is what it might look like. Much of it is based on courses I taught at Scripps College from 1970 to 1989: *Gandhi and Peace*; *Tolstoi's Political Thought*; and *Nonviolence in Theory and Practice*; *Humanities Seminar on Women and Peace*.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. List 5 women who contributed to the peace movement
2. Explain why women are important peacemakers
3. Describe one woman peacemaker who influenced your ideas for peacemaking
4. Describe three actions that you learned to become a successful peacemaker

MECHANICS

1. Purpose: To acquaint students with the classics of women's peacemaking, to critically examine the ideas, and to encourage putting their knowledge into actual practice.
2. General Course Description: This course introduces readers to the classic writings of women and peace, gives the opportunity to express ideas about peace verbally and in writing, and encourages active participation in a local peacemaking activity.
3. Class format:
 - a. Classes: Be prepared to discuss the assigned reading
 - b. Required readings (all in paperback):
 - Von Suttner, Bertha, Lay Down Your Arms, 1889. First woman Nobel Prize winner, 1905
 - Addams, Jane, Peace & Bread. Nobel Prize, 1931
 - Brittain, Vera, Testament of Youth, 1933
 - Woolf, Virginia, Three Guineas, 1938
 - Day, Dorothy, Long Loneliness, 1952
 - Liddington, Jill, Road to Greenham Common, 1985

OTHER IMPORTANT SOURCES:

- McAllister, Pam, Reweaving the Web of Life: Feminism and Nonviolence, 1982
- Cockburn, Cynthia, From Where We Stand: Women's Activism, 2007
- Enloe, Cynthia, Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War, 2010.
- Women in Peace website: www.womeninpeace.org
- Other women's peacemaking sites: www.womeninpeace.org/affiliated-sites
- Documentaries:

- o "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" Fork Films, Abigail Disney 2008
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOufMqzdKR0>
- o "Women, War and Peace" PBS 2011
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/>

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **One page essay** on each required book before class.
2. **Contact and interview a local woman peacemaker**, or one in your hometown and volunteer to help in any way. You may do this with a classmate, or friend.
Ask her if she would be willing to talk to the class about her conviction. If she cannot participate, write a description and analysis of her beliefs and activities.
List of possible contacts: Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Catholic Worker, Pax Christi, or local peace group
3. **Final Paper:** Write a paper of at least five pages reporting on your experience with your woman peacemaker, your reactions, and results. How did this change your ideas of peace?
 - a. Do women have special peacemaking skills?
 - b. Why are so few women involved in ending wars?
 - c. How can women be more effective?

Your grade will be based on:

- 15% all six critiques of classics
- 20% class discussion of books
- 50% final paper
- 25% contribution of guest peacemaker