Fall 2015, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:20 p.m. Room: CGR 1302
Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Bergen Office: CGR 2212
Office hours: Thurs, 2:30-3:30, and by appointment Email: jbergen@uwaterloo.ca
Phone: 885-0220 ext. 24234

Course Description
The Christian tradition has sustained a long and complicated debate about war and peace. Is it permitted for a Christian to serve in the army? Does the command to love one’s neighbour sometimes require the violent defense of the neighbour? Is it possible to interpret Jesus’ instruction to love one’s enemy in such a way that nevertheless permits killing of an enemy? Does God command war? Does Christianity provide guidance for the conduct of war? In what ways are the life and teachings of Jesus authoritative for contemporary Christian ethics?

In this course, we will survey the theological accounts of war and peace that Christians have given from the early church to the present. We will pay particular attention to two of the most prominent Christian approaches: pacifism, and just war, as well as Christian realism. Through a careful study to two primary books, we will examine how each draw on biblical texts, theological concepts, ecclesiological assumptions, interpretations of history and context, and ethical theory.

Note: this course is cross-listed with RS 353 and PACS 330. Most of the students in the classroom will be undergraduates.

Course Objectives
• to appreciate the diversity of Christian theological approaches to war and peace
• to understand, analyze, and evaluate the theological arguments that Christians, especially Christian theologians, have employed in favour of pacifism, just war, and Christian realism
• to develop theoretical/ethical frameworks from which to think about contemporary and practical issues of war and peace
• to read theological texts carefully and critically
• to develop skills in written communication
• to engage in respectful and critical dialogue with other students

Required texts
• John Howard Yoder, The Politics of Jesus, 2d. ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994). While the first edition contains the same substance as the second edition, the different pagination will make it more difficult to use effectively in class.
• Daniel M. Bell, Jr., Just War as Christian Discipleship (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2009).
• Various articles and chapters posted on the LEARN, as marked * below

Optional text
• A. James Reimer, Christians and War: A Brief History of the Church’s Teachings and Practices (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010). A copy will be placed on reserve at the
Grebel Library. Copies have not been ordered to the bookstore but this title is readily available from online booksellers.

Course requirements

1. Attendance and informed participation.
Graduate students participate in all aspects of the course (attending all class sessions and doing all readings), though with different assignments. There will be one or two additional meetings of graduate students with the instructor, to be arranged at a time convenient for all.

At the graduate level, attendance in all classes is expected. If you must be absent, please let the instructor know in advance. (While there are no “participation” marks per se, the instructor reserves the right to deduct up to 5% of the total grade for the course if a student has missed a large number of class sessions, been or has not met minimal expectations for contributions to class discussion.)

2. Three critical reflection papers (10 x 3 = 30%), each about 5-6 pages in length.
   a. On Reinhold Niebuhr’s “Why the Christian Church is Not Pacifist.” This reflection should include a brief summary of the thesis and argument (1.5 pages or so), and then a critical response to two or three issues raised by the article. Due in class, October 8.
   b. On Yoder’s Politics of Jesus. Specifically: describe and assess the role the church plays in Yoder’s argument in favour of Christian pacifism. Due in class, October 27.
   c. On the visits of the two guest speakers (expected October 23 and November 4), especially regarding the relationship of theory and practice. How do the comments by the speakers add to or change your perspective on the various theoretical approaches examined in the course, especially those of Yoder and Bell? Due in class, November 17.

3. A critical book review, about 12 pages in length (30%). Due on the day of the graduate seminar, likely the week of November 2 or November 9.

Select a scholarly book of at least 180 pages which must be approved by the instructor. The list of books given the undergraduate students is one place to begin. The book review should consist of about 2/3 summary of thesis and supporting argumentation, and 1/3 critical engagement. These book reviews will form a basis for a seminar among the graduate students.

4. A research paper on a theme arising from the course, about 15 pages in length (40%).

Final paper is due December 8. Submit the paper in hardcopy to the main office.

All assignments must be submitted in hard copy, double-spaced, standard margins and 12-point font, with no report covers. Add page numbers. Late assignments (reflection papers, book review) will be penalized 3% per calendar day (including weekends), and can be accepted no later than the last day of class.

Further notes about assignments:

- For TS 637: citation of sources must be Chicago Style (Turabian), footnote/bibliography format. An online version is available through the UW library website: Resources for
• For PACS 670: Chicago Style (Turabian) is the strongly preferred style, though given the diversity of the discipline, another style may be acceptable. Consult the instructor.
• Use inclusive language when referring to people.
• Add page numbers.
• Hard copy is the only accepted mode of submission.
• There is no binding rule about the number of sources to use in the research. It is often better to use a few sources well than to cite a dozen books and/or journal articles superficially. For the research paper you should expect to do significant reading beyond the required readings discussed in class.
• My general rubric for marking research papers is as follows: 1/3 for a fair and accurate representation of your sources, 1/3 for your critical analysis, 1/3 for the quality of writing.
• Late submission of any assignment will be penalized 3% per calendar day if alternate arrangements have not been made.

LEARN
I will be using LEARN for several elements of this course. All students must familiarize themselves with the LEARN platform and check it regularly.
News – Class cancellations, changes, reminders, etc. will be posted on the News section of this course.
Content – All handouts in class, including the regular course outline, will be posted in LEARN, usually prior to class. If you miss a class, there is no need to ask me for a handout. If you wish to record lectures, please check with me first.
Discussion – There is no requirement to participate in any online discussion. However, I will start by making two forums available. “Ask a question” is the forum in which to ask the instructor about course content and/or course requirements. “Start or continue a conversation” is a place to start or continue a conversation about a particular topic. That forum is primarily for students, though I will monitor it, and may contribute from time to time.
Grades – All grades will be recorded and calculated in LEARN.

Outline of class meetings and required readings
1. Sept. 15 – Introduction

2. Sept. 17 – Early Church, Constantine
   *“Acts of Maximillian,” in George Kalantzis, Caesar and the Lamb (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2012), 158-160

3. Sept. 22 – Middle Ages, Crusades
   *Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, II-II, question 40, articles 1 and 2

4. Sept. 24 – Reformation
5. Sept. 29 – Enlightenment, Christian Realism  

6. Oct. 1 – Jesus and Ethics  
Yoder, ch. 1 and 2

7. Oct. 6 – Old Testament  
Yoder, ch. 3 and 4

8. Oct. 8 – Jubilee justice and nonviolent resistance  
Yoder, ch. 5, 6, and 7

*First reflection paper due*

Yoder, ch. 8

10. Oct. 15 – Revolutionary Subordination; The State  
Yoder, ch. 9 and 10

11. Oct. 20 – War of the Lamb  
Yoder, ch. 11 and 12

[readings to be determined]

13. Oct. 27 – The Just War  
Bell, Introduction, ch. 1 and 2

*Second reflection paper due*

Bell, ch. 3

15. Nov. 3 – GUEST SPEAKER  
Fr. Bob Holmes, Christian Peacemaker Teams

16. Nov. 5 – GUEST SPEAKER  
Rev. Maj. Harold Ristau, Chaplain, Canadian Forces

17. Nov. 10 – Legitimate Authority, Just Cause  
Bell, ch. 4 and 5

18. Nov. 12 – Right Intent, Last Resort, Reasonable Chance of Success  
Bell, ch. 6 and 7

19. Nov. 17 – Discrimination, Proportionality  
Bell, ch. 8 and Conclusion

*Third reflection paper due*
20. Nov. 19 – Just Peace

21. Nov. 24 – R2P and Just Policing

22. Nov. 26 – Responses to Islamic State and/or Syrian civil war
   [readings to be determined]

23. Dec. 1 – Nuclear Weapons

24. Dec. 3 – Conclusion

*Final paper due December 8, at the front desk of Conrad Grebel University College*
Cross-listed course
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. [https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71)

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. [https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70)

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals. [https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72)

**Other sources of information for students:**
Academic Integrity website (Arts) [https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour)
Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo) [https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term. [https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/](https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/)