

**DePaul University
School for New Learning**

**Women's Voices in Peacemaking
Fall Quarter 2003
Loop Campus - Tuesdays 6 -9
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Course Description

Across the planet, as forces for war, terrorism, empire, and ecological destruction have gained more strength, there has also been an upsurge in the spiritual, cultural, political, and social leadership of women for peace and justice in response. For example, in just the last 20 years, there has been a demographic shift in the United States of gender majority attending law schools and seminaries. Women's voices from Ireland to India, from Peru to South Africa are shaping a new vision for the future that take into account class, race, gender. What is the impact of women's collective role on our future here and internationally? This course examines a variety of women's voices of the personal and political, of the spiritual and the social, and explores the possibilities of a new and emerging power dynamic for women. We will read the excerpts and works from current and past women leaders in peacemaking, such as Dorothy Day, bell hooks, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Arundhati Roy, Mary Daly, Pema Chodron, Barbara Eck, Betty Reardon, Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Aung San Suu Kyi and others; hear guest lectures from women active in practicing peace locally and globally; and experiment with tools designed to develop interpersonal and community peacemaking.

Faculty Biographical Sketch

Maureen Dolan, Swami Shraddhananda, is an ordained priest and a certified Hatha Yoga Teacher. She has been teaching yoga and meditation for several years at YMCAs, retreats, workshops, and at DePaul University. She advises seminarians and conducts weddings and other rituals. For the last four years, Swami Shraddhananda has also organized the Women's Cross Quarter Gathering of about 50 women which meets four times a year. Situated halfway between the Equinoxes and the Solstices, these occasions serve as interfaith ceremony, meditation, celebration, and community building. For over 30 years, she has been engaged in social justice work in the peace movement, union organizing, community coalitions, and women's organizations. She has served as Executive Director of the Chicago Electric Options Campaign, and as Executive Director of Women United for a Better Chicago; Assistant Director of the Public Interest Law Initiative; Coordinator of Artemisia Gallery; Recording Secretary for the UWA-UE union; Co-Chair of the Eighth Congressional District Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; member of the Spiritual Life Circle of the Parliament of World Religions; served on numerous boards of peace and justice organizations; published several articles on peace and justice issues, and is currently working on a book. She resides at a limited equity housing alternative, the Logan Square Cooperative, which uses consensus decision making. With 10 other residents engaged in various forms of social justice, she works to strengthen community and affordable housing in the neighborhoods of Chicago. She is active in United for Peace and Justice and Logan Square for Peace and Justice. She received her B.A. at Northeastern University in 1986, Lawyers' Assistant Certificate from Roosevelt University in 1988, and graduated from the Temple of Kriya Yoga Seminary Program in 1995, with a concentration on Eastern Philosophy and Comparative Religion. Maureen also has two grown sons who work in the social justice arena.

Competence Offerings for the Course

A1B - Can use public or private institutions as resources for exploring arts or ideas.

H1B - Can explain how two or more of the factors of race, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status, age, gender, sexual orientation, or religion interact to shape communities.

H4 - Can analyze power relations among racial, social, cultural, or economic groups in the U.S.

H5 Can analyze issues and problems from a global perspective.

The Learning Experience

This course examines the spiritual, cultural, and political shift that we are in the midst of presently as the powers of both mass violence and collective non-violence grow. Meditation techniques, reflection in journal writing, guest speakers, videos, and other experiential learning will enhance the readings. Connections between the international and the national, between the personal and the political, between the spiritual and the material will be drawn. The goals of this course are to provide tools for critical thinking and action; to present hopeful community alternatives in the midst of war, terror and fear; to broaden the understanding of what women have done, are doing, and can do to contribute to both peace efforts in their own lives and on the planet. This course aims to promote creativity, courage, community, and compassion.

Required Reading & Resource Materials (may be amended)

The Women and War Reader, edited by Lois Ann Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin

War Talk, Arundhati Roy

All About Love, bell hooks

Various excerpts by others

Attendance and Participation

A substantial percentage of the final grade relates directly to attendance, participation, and in class reflections. Regular attendance is therefore required, and classroom participation in discussion and activities is essential to success in completing the course. If you anticipate missing more than one class session in the quarter, it would be best for you not to enroll in this course.

Weekly Work Load

Students should anticipate spending approximately five hours per week on assigned readings and other requirements.

Course Requirements

Regular classroom participation.

Journal reflection writing on readings as they relate to own personal experience.

Project: Attend at least one outside peace/justice/community/spiritual meeting led by women and a 5 -7 page observation paper on the experience.

Final Paper 8-10 pages for one competency,.

Final Paper 10-12 pages for two competencies. In addition, for two competencies an oral report to class on the Outside Meeting is required with a question and answer period with class.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students will adhere to DePaul University's policy on academic integrity.

Criteria for Assessment

Grades will be determined by the following criteria:

Class attendance and participation 35% (includes Outside Meeting)

Written assignments, in and out of class 30% (includes journal and papers)
Final paper 35%

Course Schedule

Week 1

- * Course Introduction
- * Meditation
- * Lecture
- * Small Group Discussion
- * Large Group Discussion
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 2 (*War Talk*)

Week 2

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Discuss Reading Assignment (*War Talk*)
- * Guest speaker
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * Assignment for Week 3 (*The Women and War Reader*)
- * **Scheduling of Outside Meeting**

Week 3

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Discuss Reading Assignment ((*The Women and War Reader*))
- * Video
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * **Deadline for scheduling of Outside Meeting**
- * Assignment for Week 4 - **Paper due next week**

Week 4

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * **Deadline for completion of 5-7 page paper to be collected on this date**
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 5 (*The Women and War Reader*)

Week 5

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Lecture on Reading Assignments
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * Assignment for Week 6

Week 6

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Discussion: Small and Large

- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 7 -Handouts

Week 7

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Guest and video
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 8 (*All About Love*)

Week 8

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Discuss Reading Assignment (*All About Love*)
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * In class writing
- * Assignment for Week 9 - Various handouts

Week 9

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Lecture
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * In class writing
- * No assignments - Final Paper Due in 1 week

Week 10

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Discuss Reading Assignments
- * Guest speaker or video
- * Discussion: Small and Large
- * **Final Paper Due**
- * Evaluations

Week 11

- * Review
- * Meditation
- * Synthesis
- * Discussions: One on One