Sociology of War is designed to foster deep dialogue and relational understanding—especially where personal stories intersect with social forces related to war and peace. Nawaf Aljahdali, as Advanced Research associate in our course, will help nurture this relational culture (making connections between personal experiences and social forces, encouraging us to have real conversations where we strive to understand not only each argument but also the ground and point of view—and the personal and collective experience—underlying a given argument or opinion) in our small group and large group processes throughout the term.

Three books are required:


*Dispatches*, by Michael Herr (any published edition of *Dispatches* you may use, Herr was a journalist covering the US war in Vietnam)

*Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies*, by David Barash. (Fourth edition, 2018, Oxford Univ. Press.) We used this same book, different pages, in Sociology of Peace during this past winter term.

We’ll also watch selected segments of The Vietnam War (Ken Burn’s and Lynn Novick’s new documentary series). In addition, we will have guests coming to be with us to share their own stories and to help us think with them about how their stories relate to large social forces involving war and peace.

Here is a passage from a book which I would recommend, though it is not required, *What Have We Done: The Moral Injury of Our Longest Wars*, by David Wood:

“The long years of war have left us with unshared stories and emotions, unexamined issues and unanswered questions. What did we feel during those years of warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan? Some at home felt apprehension and the dull ache of sorrow knowing that young Americans were in peril and that the morning news would bring portraits of the battle dead. Some sought a connection by sending care packages to troops. Some didn’t know what to do. Many of us did nothing. What does that feel like to us? To those who were away at war? For those few who persevered through long deployments, what was it like to do good in a conflict America had decided was wrong? To lose buddies in a cause that seemed to have been casually abandoned at home? What pride, what guilt, sorrow, and regret linger from the roles each of us played during the war years?” (262) We will mention various books and other sources you may decide to explore. See the American Sociological Association’s ‘Peace, War & Conflict section’ for links (Resources) to research and social action sources.

Our Weekly Schedule:
Week One Tuesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 5 Our Sociological Imaginations – Open with music and art... In relation to the study of war, inner war and peace, self, family, friends and enemies, religion and secularism, ideology, economy, polity, place, society, world, earth, cosmos. No reading assignment this first week; do please begin to keep a weekly journal to help you make note of the many relational discoveries which come to mind throughout our course. Guest will share with us on Thursday of this week.

Week Two Tuesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 12 Understanding War (various perspectives) – In preparation for our small group and large group discussions for this second week, please read and be ready to discuss: Pages 5-65 in Approaches to Peace (Fourth edition). Showing of segment of The Vietnam War (on Tuesday). Guest will share with us on Thursday of this week.

Week Three Tuesday, April 17 and Thursday, April 19 Just War Tradition & Responding to Terrorism – In prep for small group and large group discussions this week, please read and be ready to discuss: Pages 66 - 160 in Approaches to Peace. Showing of segment of The Vietnam War (on Thursday).

Week Four Tuesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 26 Moral Injury, Responsibility, and Moral Complexity in Society and World – In prep for small group and large group discussions this week, please read the first half of Dispatches. Guest will share with us on Tuesday of this week.

Week Five Tuesday, May 1 and Thursday, May 3 Moral Injury, Responsibility, and Complexity Continued – In prep for small group and large group discussion this week, please read the rest of Dispatches. We will show another segment of The Vietnam War this week (TBA).

Week Six Tuesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 10 Sociological and Political-Historical- Economic Analysis – In prep for small group and large group discussions this week, please read and be ready to discuss: The Long War, Pages 1 – 48. Nawaf Aljahdali will make connections between his own story and some of the larger social forces – in relation to the focus of the book.

Week Seven Tuesday, May 15 and Thursday, May 17 More on The Long War – and the Military-Industrial Complex – In prep for small group and large group discussion this week, please read the rest of The Long War.

Week Eight Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 24 Sharing Our Research Discoveries – Begin to share what you are learning in your own research/writing projects for this course (we will have scheduled these—for this week and next—the prior Thursday, May 17, beforehand).

Week Nine Tuesday, May 29 and Thursday, May 31 Sharing Our Research Discoveries – Continue to share what you are learning in your own research/writing projects.

Week Ten Tuesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 7 Complete the Process of Sharing (on Tuesday) and Submit Paper (on Thursday) – Paper (a print copy) is due at the beginning of our final class, Thursday, June 7. There is no final exam. On Thursday I will ask also you to provide a brief self-evaluation (be prepared to self-evaluate your efforts in all aspects of our course together); and then complete the class with an overall course evaluation—and then: wishing you the very best, fare well!
Guidelines for your Research Paper:

1. Ten pages (max.), double-space; Words Cited page should of course be included but does not count toward the page total max.; use standard citation guide (e.g. MLA, APA, etc.)
2. Develop a paper in which you describe and analyze — using your sociological imagination — your personal relationship to war (self, family across the generations, many other aspects of your relational connections to war, together in context of your web of relations in society and world). Help us understand how your own story relates to larger concerns involving war and society, and give your research and writing a particular focus as you decide what aspects of social analysis you wish to concentrate on trying to better understand.
3. As sources for your research and writing, use: a) the books we are studying in our course, b) interviews with family and friends (to help you connect personal biography with public history), c) three or four additional sources (e.g. be creative, these may be scholarly journal articles, documentaries, other books, special news coverage of key war realities, specific insights from the stories of our guests during the course, and other sources you identify).
4. Be sure that your paper involves the use of your sociological imagination (from C. Wright Mills — and from Patricia Hill Collins, among others—that the sociological imagination involves the relational complexities and intersectional ties of personal biography, public history unfolding, social-cultural-political-economic-geographical frames and structures and patterns). Make the connections and make discoveries you’ve not thought about before this research project.
5. Be concise, cogent, clear, convincing, and open to nuance and debate—alternative perspectives.
   Edit your work. **Polished work (carefully edited, a print copy) due at beginning of class, Thursday, June 7.**

Basis for Grading: I give equal value to the paper and regular class attendance and participation. Be present and participate consistently and with respect for each voice and point of view in the room, do so together with your colleagues, and be conscientious in the research and writing of your paper, and then let go of concern about the course grade—you will do well, very well, or excel, depending on how much you decide to invest your energies in this course. I want to meet with each of you at some point during the term, well before Week Eight. Please schedule to meet with me at The Energy Bar, corner of SW Park and Clay. Office hour: Tuesdays and Thursdays, the hour before our class and the hour after our class. Please schedule ahead with me (in person, at class break or right after class, and of course we will work out a meeting time if the times I’ve indicated would not work for you), thank you.

Vast are the sources to help us study war, self, society, and the world, but let me note a few:

*An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

*Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex*, by William Hartung

War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning, by Chris Hedges

The Sociological Imagination, by C. Wright Mills

The Art of War, by Sun Tzu

The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam, by Barbara Tuchman

Holy War: The Crusades and Their Impact on Today’s World, by Karen Armstrong

War and Modernity, by Hans Joas

The Peloponnesian War, by Thucydides

The Iliad and The Odyssey, by Homer

Spain In Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, by Adam Hochschild

An Iraqi Woman’s Account of War and Resistance, by Haifa Zangana

On War, by Carl von Clausewitz

Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illuminations, by Michael Walzer

To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918, by Adam Hochschild

The Great War and Modern Memory, by Paul Fussell

A Terrible Love of War, by James Hillman

In Honored Glory: Arlington National Cemetery The Final Post, by Philip Bigler

A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War, by Victor Davis Hanson

The Political Economy of U.S. Militarism, by Ismael Hossein-Zadeh

New & Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era, by Mary Kaldor

Women’s Writings on the First World War, eds. Agnes Cardinal, Dorothy Goldman, and Judith Hattaway

Crimes Against Humanity: The Struggle for Global Justice, by Geoffrey Robertson

Violence and the Sacred, by Rene Girard

Terror in the Mind of God, by Mark Juergensmeyer

Communities of Memory: On Witness, Identity, and Justice, by W. James Booth

Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War, by Barbara Ehrenreich