Peace can be understood and analyzed, just as it can be practiced and pursued, from various approaches. Our seminar studies peace from many perspectives. We engage our sociological imaginations in order to better understand the relationships between personal biographies and social peace. We learn about social institutions and movements which foster peace and justice. It has been said that nonviolence can be a force more powerful than violence. Our course includes a close examination of this thesis—presented in a documentary, *A Force More Powerful*. Two books help to guide our discussions: *Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies* (fourth edition, Oxford Univ. Press, 2018), ed. David Barash, a rich anthology of voices from around the world, and *This Is An Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping The Twenty-First Century* (Nation Books, 2016), by Mark Engler and Paul Engler. These two books are required texts for the course.

Calendar of Our Sessions Together:

Week One  
Tuesday, Jan. 9 and Thursday, Jan. 11  
Our Sociological Imagination

What is our understanding of peace? This understanding is shaped in part by our own sociological imaginations, so we shall begin here.

Week Two  
Tuesday, Jan. 16 and Thursday, Jan. 18  
Social Peace

What are the dimensions we think of when we try to envision the social character of peace? How does peace relate to social justice, global justice, climate justice? In preparation for our discussion this week, please read in *Approaches to Peace*: 1-4, 161-181.

Week Three  
Tuesday, Jan. 23 and Thursday, Jan. 25  
More Social Dimensions

What are some more dimensions we think of as we envision the relational character of peace? How does peace relate to human rights and to movements to overcome racism and sexism? Please read for this week’s discussion, in *Approaches to Peace*: 181-209.
Week Four  Tuesday, Jan. 30 and Thursday, Feb. 1  Nonviolence

What are the major elements of nonviolence? Please read for this week’s discussion, in *Approaches to Peace*: 210-251.

Week Five  Tuesday, Feb. 6 and Thursday, Feb. 8  Peace and Justice Movements

This week we begin to study peace and justice movements. Please read for this week’s discussion, in *Approaches to Peace*: 252-298. We will watch the two-part documentary, *A Force More Powerful*, this week.

Week Six  Tuesday, Feb. 13 and Thursday, Feb. 15  Social Transformation

We begin to explore structure and movement as these concepts are developed in *This Is An Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt is Shaping The Twenty-First Century*, so please read for our discussion from the introduction to this book as well as 1-57.

Week Seven  Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Thursday, Feb. 22  Pillars of Power

What are the key pillars of power which must be examined in efforts to bring about justice and peace? Please read for this week’s discussion, in *This Is An Uprising*: 59-115.

Week Eight  Tuesday, Feb. 27 and Thursday, Mar. 1  Disruption and Strategy

What are key strategies in social movements for justice and peace? Please read for this week’s discussion, in *This Is An Uprising*: 117-169.

Week Nine  Tuesday, Mar. 6 and Thursday, Mar. 8  Peace and the Ecology of Change

Let’s discuss the main arguments and conclusions of *This Is An Uprising*, so read the rest of the book, 171-284, for our discussion this week.
Week Ten Tuesday, Mar. 13 and Thursday, Mar. 15 Give us a brief report on the highlights of your paper; ready to present on Tuesday March 13. We will complete these reports and do a self-evaluation and course evaluation on Thursday March 15.

Assignments and Basis for Evaluation of Your Contributions to Our Community of Learning:

1) Do the readings as assigned, ahead of each week, and be ready for thoughtful discussion. Active participation is important—this includes deeply attentive listening. Regular attendance and participation are vital in this seminar, and count toward half of your total course grade.

2) Develop a high quality research paper. Guidelines for this paper are as follows: a) 8 to 10 pages, double-space, with all sources cited (this can be page 11) (If you are taking the course for graduate credit, the paper should be 13 to 15 pages); b) articulate what you decide to be the most significant question you can think of that has to do with a social perspective on peace; ask this question and then dedicate your research and writing project to a concise and cogent answer to the question you have asked; I want to meet with each of you to discuss your question and to give you some suggestions for researching it in the local community as well as in broad context; be sure that your paper is carefully edited and polished when you submit it at the beginning of our class on Thursday March 15. This paper is worth half of your total course grade.

There are many excellent sources related to the sociology of peace, and we will refer to many of these (e.g. books, journal articles, websites, documentaries), but do take a look at the American Sociological Association, Section on Peace, War & Social Conflict (and within that section note the excellent set of “Resources” links).

My days and times available to meet are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am, at The Energy Bar, 1431 SW Park Avenue. Let me know if one of these times does not work for you; we can work out another time if such is the case. My phone for leaving a message (at home): 503-662-4210. My email address: frankfromherz@gmail.com

Title IX Reporting Duties: As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help foster a safe learning environment for all. Thank you all for helping to foster a culture of mutual respect. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the Office of Equity and Compliance or the Office of the Dean of Student Life.