Peace – especially social peace – can be understood and analyzed, just as it can be practiced and pursued, from various approaches. Our seminar studies social peace from many perspectives including that of Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the struggle for democracy in Burma. We engage our sociological imaginations in order to better understand the relationships between personal biographies and public peacemaking. We learn about social institutions which foster and sustain peace. It has been said that organized nonviolence can be a force more powerful than organized violence. Our course includes a close examination of this thesis—presented in a documentary covering numerous nonviolent social forces in the twentieth century. Join us for some good reads, the documentary *A Force More Powerful*, plus a feature film about the life of Aung San Suu Kyi, and thoughtful discussions on such a crucial theme for our 21st century global village. Two good books (and our life experiences) inform our discussions: *Approaches to Peace* (3rd edition), ed. David Barash, a rich anthology of voices from around the world, and *The Voice of Hope: Aung San Suu Kyi*, based on her conversations with Alan Clements. These two books are required texts for the course and it is crucial that you read the assigned pages ahead of each week’s discussion. Each session please bring the pertinent text for our seminar conversations—which will include some small group time as well as full group seminar.

Calendar of Our Sessions Together:

Week One  Tuesday, Jan. 6 and Thursday, Jan. 8  Our Sociological Imagination

What is our understanding of peace? Is this understanding of peace shaped in part by the relationship we experience and recollect between personal biography and public history?

Week Two  Tuesday, Jan. 13 and Thursday, Jan. 15  Social Peace

What are the dimensions we think of when we try to envision the relational (social) character of peace? In preparation for our discussion this week, please read in *Approaches to Peace* (3rd edition): 1-4, 79-82, 83-88, 107-108, 130-137, 162-173.
Week Three  Tuesday, Jan. 20 and Thursday, Jan. 22  More Social Dimensions

What are some more dimensions we think of as we envision the relational character of peace? Please read ahead for this week’s discussion, in *Approaches to Peace*: 200-210, 210-213, 214-220, 226-230, 230-240.

Week Four  Tuesday, Jan. 27 and Thursday, Jan. 29  Aung San Suu Kyi and Peace

What do we learn about social peace as thought and practice, from Aung San Suu Kyi? For our discussion this week please read in advance, *The Voice of Hope*: 7-120.

Week Five  Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5  More with Aung San Suu Kyi

What does Aung San Suu Kyi mean by a revolution of the spirit? How does her story help us appreciate the relationship between personal biography and public history as we think about inner peace, societal peace, and international peace? This week we will watch together a powerful film about Aung San Suu Kyi entitled *The Lady*.

Week Six  Tuesday, Feb. 10 and Thursday, Feb. 12  Nonviolent Social Action

This week we begin to explore more deeply the place of nonviolent social action in our understanding of social peace. We will watch together a remarkable documentary, *A Force More Powerful*. Please read in *Approaches to Peace*: 241-244, 245-250, 258-265, 266-277.

Week Seven  Tuesday, Feb. 17 and Thursday, Feb. 19  Structural Peace

Here we consider the contrast between structural violence and structural peace. Read in preparation, in *Approaches to Peace*: 285-321.

Week Eight  Tuesday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, Feb. 26  Team Dramatizations (See details below)

Week Nine  Tuesday, Mar. 3 and Thursday, Mar. 5  Team Dramatizations (See below)

Week Ten  Tuesday, Mar. 10 and Thursday, Mar. 12  Circle of Shared Learning

This is our last week together. Each of you will be asked to share (informal circle of sharing) on Tuesday some of the highlights of discoveries you’ve made in researching and writing your paper (see guidelines below). **The paper is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 10.** Bring print copy to class on time (10 AM), so that you can learn from each of your colleagues and likewise so they can learn from you. We will do self-evaluation and course evaluation on Thursday, March 12, but before doing so we will review what we think are the most significant things we have learned together about the social dimensions of peace.
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 in small and large group. Active participation is important—this includes deeply attentive listening. Regular attendance and participation are vital in this seminar, and count toward one-third 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—when you are ready—to discuss your question and to give you some suggestions for exploring it in depth; be sure that your paper is carefully edited and polished when you submit it at the beginning of our class on Tuesday, March 10. This paper is worth one-third of your total course grade.

3) Work with members of your dramatization team (we will form these teams in Week Four) to develop a thoughtful and creative mini-theatre on some specific example of collective nonviolent social action; I will give you some suggestions and guidelines for this during Week Four just before you meet as your dramatization team and begin to shape what you will create and enact together later in the term (see calendar above). This dramatization is worth one-third 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, 12 Noon – 1:45 PM, at The Energy Bar (fresh juices, pastries, soups, coffee shop), 1431 SW Park Avenue. My phone for leaving a message (at home): 503-662-4210. My email address: frankfromherz@gmail.com