

Phil 496 : Senior Seminar

(Spring 2013)

Time : Tues 3:00 - 5:45 p.m. / Place: CH 324

Professor : Dr. M. J. Seidler / Office: CH 322

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Office Hours : mwf 9-10 / 11:15 - 12:00 a.m./ R 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. / and by arrangement

CATALOG ENTRY : Senior Standing and major in philosophy OR consent of instructor. A capstone course designed for senior philosophy majors. Students will complete projects that demonstrate their research, writing, and analytical skills. Content areas of the seminar will vary by semester and instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course is conceived as both a summation and review of past work, and as an opportunity to focus on a new research project. The former will include (1) individual student retrospectives over their own course-work in philosophy to date, and (2) a brief look at some major philosophical terms and problems that should be part of everyone's philosophical vocabulary. For this second segment of the course, we will use: Barry Loewer, ed., *30-Second Philosophies: The 50 most thought-provoking philosophies, each explained in half a minute* (2009). Our third focus (3) will be a special theme involving a collective reading of select texts and individual research essays. (It will also be possible for students to pursue individual research projects of their own choosing, should they wish to do so.)

SPECIAL TOPIC: "Thinking about War, Peace, and International Relations in the Eighteenth Century"

TEXTS & READINGS :

- Barry Loewer, ed., *30-Second Philosophies: The 50 most thought-provoking philosophies, each explained in half a minute* (Icon Books, 2010), 160 pp. \$15 / ISBN-13: 978-1848311626
- M L'Abbe de Saint-Pierre, *An Abridged Version of the Project for Perpetual Peace*, ed. Roderick Pace, trans. Carmen Depasquale, Preface by Peter van de Dungen (Midsea Books, 2009), 256 pp., pbk. / ISBN-10: 999327237X / ISBN: 978-9993272373 / \$21 (Amazon)
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- J.-J. Rousseau, *'The Social Contract' and Other Later Political Writings*, ed. Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge UP, 1997), pbk. \$20 / ISBN-13: 978 0 52142 446 2
- Emer de Vattel, *The Law of Nations*, eds. Béla Kapossy and Richard Whatmore (Liberty Fund, 2008), pbk. \$14.50 / ISBN: 978-0-86597-451-7
- Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays on Politics, History, and Morals*, trans. Ted Humphrey (Hackett, 1983), 162 pp. / ISBN-13: 978-0-915145-47-8 / pbk. \$14.95
- Roosevelt, Grace (1990), *Reading Rousseau in the Nuclear Age*. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1990) / Appendix A: "Rousseau's Unfinished Manuscript on 'The State of War' (185-98) / [See Blackboard.]
Appendix B: "Rousseau's 'Summary' of the Abbé de Saint-Pierre's *Project for Perpetual Peace* (199-220) /
Appendix C: "Rousseau's 'Critique' of the Abbé de Saint-Pierre's *Project for Perpetual Peace*" (221-29)
- Additional articles available in Blackboard / Readings

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (more details later):

ATTENDANCE : Come to class.

RESOURCES: [Course Website](#) / [Blackboard](#) / [Research Tools](#) / [Publication & Presentation Opportunities](#)

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

(See BB for readings. Read assigned selections before coming to class.)

MEETINGS	READINGS	TOPICS
Week 1 (J 22)		Introduction to course.
Week 2 (J 29)	Loewer (as assigned)	Loewer / course descriptions
Week 3 (F 5)	Loewer (as assigned)	Loewer / course descriptions
Week 4 (F 12)	Höbelt (2012), Schröder (2012), 17-18CC wars (chart) St.-Pierre (introductory essays, 1-80)	Abbé de Saint-Pierre
Week 5 (F 19)	Saint-Pierre (1-97)	Abbé de Saint-Pierre
Week 6 (F 26)	Saint-Pierre (99-166)	Abbé de Saint-Pierre
Week 7 (M 5)	Vattel (5-20, 67-79) Hunter (2010), Holland (2012)	Emer de Vattel
Week 8 (Break)	SPRING BREAK: March 11-15	
Week 9 (M 19)	Vattel, bk. I: 1-4, 6, 8-11, 14, 20	Emer de Vattel
Week 10 (M 26)	Vattel, bk. II: 1-5, 7, 12-13, 15-18	Emer de Vattel
Week 11 (A 2)	Vattel, bk. III: 1-4, 8-10, 12, 15-16 Vattel, bk. IV: 1-5	Emer de Vattel
Week 12 (A.9)	Rousseau: Summary of St.-Pierre (App.II: 199-220) Rousseau: Critique of St.-Pierre (App.III: 221-229) Spector (2012)	Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Week 13 (A 16)	Rousseau: The State of War (App.I: 185-198) Roosevelt (2006)	Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Week 14 (A 23)	Kant: Perpetual Peace (107-143) Hunter (2010)	Immanuel Kant
Week 15 (A 30)	Hunter (2012) Joas & Knöbl (2013)	Immanuel Kant Review & Synthesis
Week 16 (Exams)	Final project due.	