

Educating Nonviolent Children

CR407/507 Summer 2006, July 28-30

Instructor: Amanda Byron
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Course Description:

This two-credit workshop will introduce teaching and parenting strategies that promote nonviolent problem solving in children of all ages. Exercises in critical thinking, conflict resolution and peace education will create an interactive atmosphere in which to explore effective ways to encourage nonviolence beliefs, behaviors and actions.

Course Expectation:

Students are expected to attend and actively participate during the entire seminar. Readings will be assigned throughout the seminar for students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. In class assignments will be given to help students synthesize learning, and a final paper will be due two weeks after the conclusion of class. Papers should be submitted in hardcopy to my mailbox in the CR office.

Required Reading:

Reading is available either online or through the online reserves at the Portland State University Library. You can search for the course materials with the course number, or instructor name (Byron), and if a password is required it will be the instructor name (byron). Reading will be assigned during breaks and between class sessions.

Final Paper:

An 8-10 page research paper, due Friday August 11 by 5pm, will incorporate at least two academic sources and will explore a topic introduced in the seminar pertaining to educating nonviolent children.

Evaluation:

50% Class Participation*

25% In-class Assignments

25% Final Paper

* Students will lose class participation points if late or absent for any class sessions.

Please notify instructor of any special needs

Any and all reasonable requests for accommodation will be granted to the best of the instructor's ability

Proposed Schedule

Friday, July 28

- 5:00 Introductions
- 5:30 What are the obstacles to educating nonviolent children?
- 6:00 What is Nonviolence?
- 6:30 How does it become a reality?
- 7:00 Break: **Read Nonviolence: An Introduction, by Weber and Burrowes**
<http://www.nonviolenceinternational.net/seasia/whatis/book.php?style=pfv>
- 7:30 Small Group Exercise
- 8:00 Feedback/Discussion
- 8:30 **Reading Assignment (online library reserves): Read Perspectives on /History of Peace Education, and Chapter entitled, *To Love Means to be Truly Present: Practicing Peace with Your Child*, by Thich Nhat Hanh.**

Saturday, July 29

- 9:15 Check in
- 9:30 Peace Education
 - What is it?
 - How is it different than programming?
 - How does it foster change?
- 9:45 Connections to Violence Prevention, Public Health Approach
- 10:00 PE Book Review: Key Concepts, Strengths and Questions
- 10:45 *Break*
- 11:00 Small Group Exercise
- 12:00 Lunch: Read <http://www.safersanerschools.org/library/ssspilots.html> and http://www.dock.net/gathercoal/judicious_discipline.html
- 1:30 Discussion of Discipline
- 2:30 In-class Writing Assignment
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Conflict Resolution Communication and Skill Building: The Basics/NVC
- 4:30 **Reading Assignment (online library reserves): Media Violence**

Sunday, July 30

- 9:15 Check in
- 9:30 Discuss Reading
- 10:00 Addressing external influences
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Media Violence: Understanding how media shapes youth culture and thinking
- 12:00 Lunch: **Homework Assignment: Find a story or strategy of positive and impactful nonviolent action with children.**
- 1:30 Tools for change
 - Resource/Story sharing
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 In-class Writing Assignment
- 3:30 Review of initial list of obstacles/Wrap Up
- 4:00 Discuss Final Paper/Course Evaluations/Closing