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Sonoma State’s War & Peace Lecture Series Resonates a World in Crisis

Rohnert Park, Calif. (August 25, 2014) — Sonoma State University’s War & Peace Lecture Series returns this fall with a lineup of speakers and topics resonating a world submerged in war and political unrest, the intelligence community and internet technology, non-violent solutions to conflict, and their profound impact on United States citizens.

Hosted by English Professor Tim Wandling, the public lecture is held Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Aug. 26 to Dec. 9, in Warren Auditorium on the second floor of Ives Hall. Admission is free, but there is $5 daily parking fee. See https://www.sonoma.edu/warandpeacelectures for a complete schedule.

The series brings a number of notable speakers to Sonoma State this fall, including:

- Peter Phillips, SSU Prof of Sociology and Former National Dir of Project Censored: “US-NATO global empire in service to the Transnational Capitalist Class and the circumstances of the Ukraine” (Sep 2)
- Veteran’s panel composed of speakers from different eras of conflict: Al Liner (Viet Nam), Terri Boyer (First Gulf War) and War and Peace alum and current SSU student Adam Brashears (Afghanistan) (Sep 16)
- Therese Mughannam, Chuck Sher, and Laure Reichek, Peace Activists and Bridge-Builders: “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Historical Context and Personal Reflections” (Sep 23)
- Cynthia Boaz, SSU Professor of Political Science: “Global Governance, People Power and Nonviolent Solutions” (Oct 28)
- Michael Nagler, U C Berkeley Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies and President of Metta Center for Non Violence: “Nonviolence and the New Paradigm” (Nov 18)

“This year’s series features a renewed focus on human rights, people power and 21st century solutions to age-old questions about war,” said Wandling. “We have exciting speakers from a variety of intellectual disciplines and traditions who will stimulate thought and move us to action.”

The series is both a lecture and a graded academic course, English 304.

“I enjoyed the debate component of the series lectures and classes,” said Garrison Kalman, a fall 2013 War & Peace student who is now a senior majoring in history and minoring in English. “Last season’s panel discussion about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was very informative.”

Community members who are not matriculated students may register for the War and Peace class (ENGL 304) via Sonoma State’s Open University program (www.sonoma.edu/exed/misc/open-university.html).
“It is the business of us all, as responsible citizens, to concern ourselves with the actions that our government takes in our name,” states the syllabus of English 304, the academic persona of the War & Peace Lecture Series. “We, in the US, have an opportunity that is denied to citizens of many countries to participate in setting the direction of our government’s policies, and to control the political, social and economic environment in which we live.”

About the War & Peace Lecture Series
In 1986, a diverse group of Sonoma State University faculty conceived the War & Peace Lecture Series as a multi-disciplinary program to provide the campus community with cultural enrichment. An integral component of a well-rounded higher education, the series currently functions as a public lecture and upper-division course (English 304). It presents civilian and military speakers who discuss current topics such as state crimes against democracy, the intelligence community and the need for transparency, peace and sustainability, the scientific underpinnings of modern warfare, and the power and promise of non-violent movements.

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