

Imagining Peace

Martin Beck Matušík, *Lincoln Professor of Ethics & Religion*

Certificate in [Peace Studies](#), gateway to certificate in [Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Literature](#) & the following disciplines: **ENG, HIS, POL, PHI, REL, JST**



[The John Lennon Wall in Prague](#)

Course Description: During one of the most repressive periods of the Cold War, the John Lennon Wall in Prague inspired many to imagine better worlds. This course will draw on philosophical and religious ideas, fiction and art, political protest and public invocations, in order to explore the political, aesthetics and cultural history of peace imagination. *The greatest obstacles to peace*, after obvious failures to imagine its possibility, are militant campaigns for peace. Just wars, holy wars, wars on evil, secular wars to end all wars, revolutions to establish earthly kingdoms of peace, doves and rhetoric of peace, the kisses of peace, have had both their tyrants and martyrs. Is every form of transformation – religious or secular, activist or passive – unavoidably both war and peace? Examining sacred as well as secular imaginary of peace, the course will consider a range of proposals for its enduring and universal sustainability. Learning from the devastating history of failure, students will imagine what may be at stake in overcoming contemporary obstacles to peace.



[Czech Peace \(trailer\)](#)

Imaginative writing assignments

- *secular and religious imaginary of peace
- *justifications of peace through war
- *education towards peace
- *social & political economy of peace
- *sustainable practices of peace
- *peace movements
- *non/violence and civil disobedience
- *hidden forms of violence
- *limits of justice for peace
- *fiction and nonfiction of peace
- *winning the Nobel Peace Prize

“Then came the Dark Days, the uprising of the districts against the Capitol. Twelve were defeated, the thirteenth obliterated. The Treaty of Treason gave us the new laws to guarantee peace and, as our yearly reminder that the dark days must never be repeater, it gave us the Hunger Games.” (Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*, Vol. 1, p.18)



Film & Art



Texts (for contents click on the book titles)

David P. Barash, [Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies](#)

Suzanne Collins, [The Hunger Games Trilogy](#)

Linda Hogan & Dylan Lee Lehrke, Editors, [Religion and the Politics of Peace and Conflict](#)

Gore Vidal, [Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace: How We Got to Be So Hated](#)

[Hieronymus Bosch, The Concert in the Egg](#)



[The Garden of Earthly Delights](#)