

**Violence, Human Rights, and Justice**  
Prof. Erica Caple James  
Short Paper #1, 6-7 pages  
Draft Due Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.

This paper will be slightly different than your reflection papers, as I am not going to give you an exact prompt to discuss, but rather, more open topics for your reflection. As you write this paper, I will be looking for your argument. Tell me what you will argue and which author's work you are using to support your own argument in the first paragraph. The thesis that you will argue should be clearly stated in the first paragraph and should be the last sentence that I read. Give me a strong conclusion of at least one paragraph. I will more than likely have you add to what you've done in my comments so err on the side of 6-6.5 pages.

**Citations**

Most of you know this already, but there has been some informality with the use of citations in the reflection papers. I want to be sure that I've taught you a standard, social science format of writing before the course concludes so we will practice this in the short papers. Use this format in the remainder of the reflection papers.

When you cite an author, use the following style:

X asserts that "the quotation you are citing" (Author year: page). Or, according to Fanon: "Quote" (Fanon year: page).

If your citation is longer than four lines, use the format in which you begin the quote

after skipping a line, in single space format, with a half-inch indentation on either side of your margins. You do not include quotation marks when the text is indented. Once your quote has come to an end you use the same bibliographic reference as given above. Of course, if your quotation starts as a full sentence you will capitalize it (Author Year: page).

Then your analysis of the quote begins here. In the body of your paper, I expect you to build your argument with clear, relevant citation of the source material that we have read up to this point. You may use all readings up through October 18<sup>th</sup>, but use them wisely. Do give me a full bibliography at the end of your paper. In bibliographic references there are different styles for books and articles, but for now use this format or something equivalent:

Giddens, Anthony. 1999. "Political Theory and the Problem of Violence." In *The Politics of Human Rights*, ed. Obrad Savic for the Belgrade Circle Journal, 245-257. London: Verso.

Manson, Joseph H. and Richard W. Wrangham. 1991. Intergroup Aggression in Chimpanzees and Humans. *Current Anthropology* 32(4): 369-390.

Tambiah, Stanley J. 1996. *Leveling Crowds: Ethnonationalist Conflicts and Collective Violence in South Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

### **The Topics (choose one)**

1) Discuss the manner in which an individual, group, society, or even a nation can come to be deemed an “other” or “threatening” such that violent or coercive action is viewed as legitimate or rational towards that “other”. Discuss in what way this mode of thinking, and the policy or actions that result from it, is linked to struggles for political, economic, and social power at the level of individuals, collective groups, or the state. Use (at least) three of the authors we have studied in this section to support your argument; however, I suggest that the different types of violence that Crelinsten, Giddens, Fanon, and Tambiah discuss might be interesting to think through as you formulate your argument. If you are really ambitious, Foucault could be interesting here, but I don’t advise using his theories until we’ve really discussed him – he is probably our toughest theorist. Finally, evaluate in your essay whether or not you believe that the promotion of rights (human, civil, women’s, etc.) across the globe can be effective in creating peace.

2) As in question #1, discuss the ways in which a particular rationality, mode of thinking, or process of judgment is employed in cross-cultural discussions of human rights to identify a society or its cultural practices as “other” or “threatening”. Discuss in what way such a rationale, and the policy or action that results from this position, is linked to struggles for political, economic, and social power or security at the level of individuals, collective groups, or the state. Analyze how the human rights concept or movement has unfolded over time in the context of political, economic, and social inequalities among the actors engaged in this debate. Good authors to use in this section are Patterson, Cassese, Walley, or An-Na’im; although, Fanon and Crelinsten could be relevant here as well. In your essay, evaluate whether or not there is a way to resolve the tension between global inequalities, cultural diversity, and the desire to promote universal “human” values.

### **Some guidance**

Please define your terms if they may be ambiguous. Do not use source material beyond what we have read so far in the class in your essays. Do not expound on current events except perhaps a sentence or two in a conclusion. Use case materials that we have read thus far to support your arguments.

Remember that this is a draft. These are the ideas that will recur as we move forward into the ethnographic case studies.

Good luck and enjoy it!