

War, violence, and humanity

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War and violence have been around for as long as humanity, and the toll inflicted on ourselves in terms of suffering and death is so vast as to be almost incomprehensible. Why, then, do we continue to do it? This course will take a in-depth look at war and violence both past and present, but it will also take an equally in-depth look at this thing we call humanity. Why do some people stand up against war and violence? What do they say and what do we hear? Combining cultural, psychological, social, and political perspectives, we will endeavor to answer the question of whether we will ever learn from our history, or whether we are eternally condemned to repeat it.

Week one

A species prone to violence? Questioning the sapiens of homo sapiens

Week two

War, violence, and history: a dystopian tour

Week three

Who are the peacemakers? Understanding the voices of conscience

Week four

The world where we live: whither humanity or wither humanity?