Human history is often read as the history of men's wars. An often forgotten, but nonetheless integral part of that history is women's experience of war. Still less recognized is the tradition of women's involvement in and commitment to peace. This course is intended to review that tradition, to interpret it in conceptual terms of gender role and feminist analysis, and to learn from it lessons for the future. The course will address questions of the development and present state of the art of war; of women's participation in war as victims, workers, and soldiers; of women's traditional role as peace-makers; of the roots of militarism in masculinity and masculine institutions, including science; and of the potential of an integrative feminist theory as an agent for social change toward a more peaceful world.

TEXTS

Johathan Schell, The Fate of the Earth
Pam McAllister, ed., Reweaving the Web: Feminism and Nonviolence
Brian Easlea, Fathering the Unthinkable: Masculinity, Scientists and the Nuclear Arms Race

A reprint packet will be handed out in class.

GRADING STRUCTURE

20% Mid-term take-home exam or book report
45% Major research paper or project
25% Final take-home exam
10% Class participation

PREREQUISITES: W.S. 100 and 60 credit hours or permission of the department.

"the passion to make and make again
where such unmaking reigns"

Adrienne Rich