



PEACE ACTIVITY (5%)

Due date: Last day of class

In recent years, Dawson College has made a commitment to use its voice to promote peace and nonviolence. This assignment reflects your contribution to this effort. You will find below a list of possible activities, but there is also room for you to develop your own activity either alone or in a group with other students. If you choose to do this, be sure to consult with me first. There is obviously so much that can be done to promote peace, and I am hoping that this course will inspire some ideas, but you should definitely keep in mind that your activities should not consume enormous amounts of your time as this is only a small component of the course. For each suggestion below, I have given the points that would be rewarded for it. Note that, if needed, you can do more than one activity to obtain the full 5 marks; this is up to you. You will be graded simply on the basis of your completion of the activity.

Once you complete your activity or activities, please upload a document through LEA into the peace activity folder, providing an explanatory note of what you did, along with any necessary elements (e.g. text, response to a talk, reading or film, etc.). For this assignment, there is no need to hand in a printed copy.

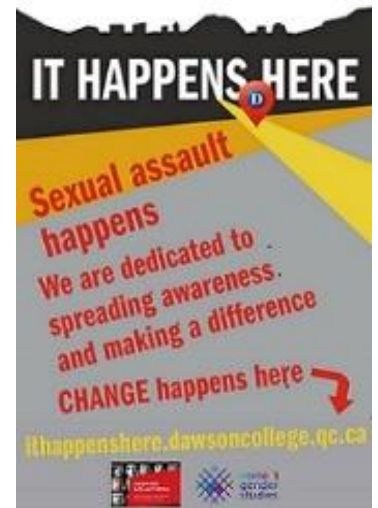
Participate in Dawson's *Inspire Solutions* project

Inspire Solutions is a Dawson initiative to encourage a college-wide reflection on the problem of violence and the potential for creating a more peaceful world. The project is based on the assumption that a more peaceful world can only be achieved if we believe that the goal is possible; thus the project's various components seek to promote an awareness that solutions to the problems of violence and war exist and that peacebuilding is a human capacity. The project includes an educational website, which can be accessed through the Dawson homepage or at inspire.dawsoncollege.qc.ca, a growing collection of original articles (see "Newsletter/Blog" on the website's menu), and the hosting of special events and projects. Our work each semester typically emphasizes a particular theme; the 2016-2017 theme is *Resistance*.

For this term, there are several possible ways to contribute to *Inspire Solutions*:

- Participate in our ongoing project with Women's/Gender Studies.
 - *It Happens Here* is a multi-faceted project on sexual assault that seeks to promote awareness, provide support, and create change. We are inviting the students and staff of Dawson College to make their mark on our sexual assault [map](#), share a story, poem, video or visual art work – anonymously if they wish – about their own experiences, and/or offer some suggestions about solutions. You can find more information on the project on the *It Happens Here* site.

All of these can be uploaded to the *It Happens Here* website at ithappenshere.dawsoncollege.qc.ca. Over the year, we will also be hosting special events and I will send you MIOs to let you know of anything that is upcoming. If you would like to submit a personal story, this will count for the entire peace activity, while attending one of our events and writing a reflection will be worth 2 points. You could also write a reflection on solutions to the problem of sexual assault or create a visual art work to support our *Manifesto for Change* (value could vary from 1-5 points; please see me in advance). If you would like to offer your own personal story to *It Happens Here* and want it to be counted for your peace activity, then please upload it to the website by clicking [here](#), but also send me a MIO to let me know. No worries, your identity will be protected.



- Contribute to our 2016-2017 theme: **Resistance**
 - This year we are planning to publish two new collections of short articles on our current theme. If you are interested in the issue of nonviolent resistance, take a look at our theme description [here](#), and consider submitting an article. We are flexible on format, and post both personal reflections and more academic texts. Our deadlines are late October and early April. Even if not selected for the newsletter, your reflections will count for your entire peace activity mark (e.g. 5%). In addition to submitting through LEA, please do send me a MIO with your contribution.

- Reflect on some of the other peace and nonviolence resources available on the Inspire Solutions site
 - In February 2015, Marie Wilson, one of the commissioners to Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, came to Dawson College and gave a powerful call to young Canadians. Watch her [video](#) on the *Inspire Solutions* website and write a short reflection (2 pts). If you add a response on the website (just scroll down the page), this counts for an additional point.

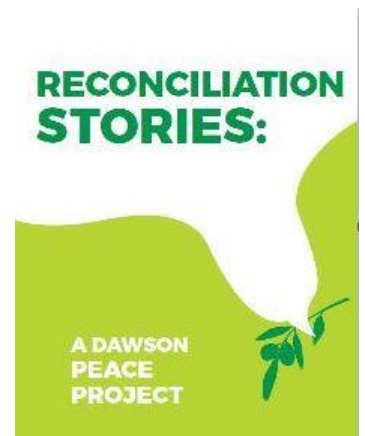


- In 2014, we offered our support to a wonderful campaign, *FilmRaise*, which sought to raise money for social causes through the screening online of a powerful social impact film. It was a great idea: every time someone watched the film, 50 cents was sent to a peace or justice organization identified by the viewer. The initiative proved to be very successful; over 60,000 people watched online and over \$30,000 was raised for a variety of great causes. The campaign is now over. But you can still watch the wonderful film, *Beyond Right and Wrong*, online by

clicking [here](#), and then reflect on what moved or surprised you the most (2 points); leave a comment on our website by clicking [here](#) and earn an additional point.

- Our newsletter/blog now includes over 50 postings; quite a few have been written by members of the Dawson faculty and they cover diverse themes, including bullying, “othering”, media violence, war, reconciliation, and gender and peacebuilding. Comment on an existing article on the blog for 1 point; read and comment on 5 articles and gain full marks. Click [here](#) to find the web page; you can also click on the subjects found in the tag cloud on the right hand side to help you search for something that interests you or scroll down the [homepage](#) for a list of some of our favorites.

- In the past few years, we have launched a number of special projects, which use storytelling in an effort to promote social change. We invite you to read [War Stories](#), [Reconciliation Stories](#), or our expanding collection of [Survivor Stories](#) as part of the *It Happens Here* project. Read any collection and offer your reflections; this will count for three points, but it is expected that you demonstrate a reading of most of the collection.



Participate in another Dawson College project related to peace

- Participate in an event or activity hosted by the *Dawson Peace Centre*, *Sustainable Dawson*, *First Peoples Initiative*, *Women’s/Gender Studies*, or a relevant DSU association/club, like *Amnesty International*. Why not help out in Dawson’s rooftop garden project, attend an event that promotes indigenous culture, experience a meditation class, or leave a message on the [peace wall](#) (1 point), for example? All these count!

Be sure to talk to me in advance about all of these (unless I have sent you a recommendation by MIO). Attending a talk or workshop will likely count for 2 points (while attending 2 will count for the full 5 points), while taking on an organizing role, for example, could count for as much as 5 points. Be sure to describe your involvement, discuss the activity/event and reflect on its link to peace in the document you upload through LEA.

- You will also find several wonderful [videos](#) on the Peace Centre site. I will send you MIOs when new ones are posted, but I invite you to watch *Fearless Heart*, by Thupten Jinpa, or *The Five Laws of Violence*, by Canadian pacifist James Loney, who reflects on his beliefs and on being held captive by extremists in Iraq for 118 days. Watch either video and reflect on what you found most significant or surprising; each counts for 2 points, but watch both for 5 points.