ENG341 Language and conflict – from aggressive to peaceful communication

Fall 2017

Course description

This course takes up language and conflict as a topic in discourse analysis. The following subtopics will be discussed: (1) mixing words and other things as a reason for conflict; (2) framing – how we talk differently about the same thing; (3) how words can influence our emotions; (4) how we mix descriptions, inferences and evaluations; (5) euphemisms, dysphemisms and political correctness; (6) how we misinterpret other people’s linguistic behavior; (7) how conflicts revolve around the definition of words; (8) how linguistics can be used for peace education. Meaning and understanding will be the central concern in the course.

Obligatory reading:


Recommended reading: see *Suggestions for further reading* at the end of each chapter in Janicki 2015.