

Engineering Peace in Practice

Sat. Dec. 7—Sun. Dec. 8 2019 **Lead facilitator Paul K. Chappell Co-facilitated by Sharyn Clough**

Endorsement and Participation Responses:

- 1: How might we build on our work this weekend to bring Peace Literacy into more formal relationship with the College of Engineering, other STEM colleges, student groups, alumni, and/or OSU more generally, and would you like to be part of that work?
- 2: If you can support our work with an endorsement we could use to further promote Peace Literacy we would be grateful!

Faculty responses:

Nick AuYeung, OSU CBEE faculty

- 1. We could have interdisciplinary designs projects. We have a teamwork practitioner learning communities in CBEE that is implementing best practices and learning about them. We should work together.
- 2. Would love to borrow many of these lessons! The lack of ethical development in society was something I had never thought about.

Elain Fu, OSU CBEE faculty

- 1. I think there would be interest from engineering faculty in other units. Maybe work with COE to offer this as part of their professional development workshop series? Associate Dean Todd Palmer heads the COE Change Team and would be a good person to contact.
- 2. The workshop provided me with a set of tools that I can apply in my social justice and engineering course this winter.

Elisar Barbar, OSU Biochemistry and Biophysics faculty

1. Give a formal seminar to faculty/student once a year to educate department on peace literacy and how to work together.

Include feature in capstone class and career class.

2. I will be happy to be involved in changing the culture.

Wendy Aaron, OSU Math and Stats Learning Center faculty

- 1. I would love to be involved moving forward. I'm currently thinking about the intersection of gender and peace literacy. I'm also thinking about what it means to do this work in a dehumanizing and white supremacist institution.
- 2. The tools for making sense of aggressions and its roots are essential to moving forward as a species. I hope this training is available for all OCU community members.



Current Student Responses:

Jude Pelpola, OSU **Engineering Student**

1. The idea that we have to learn these skills and that these skills are not pre-programmed in humans is a point that people should understand more. That people have the capacity to be better if given the opportunity.

2. I would love to help spread the message of peace literacy to other students and people in the community.

Alex Garcia, OSU Engineering Student

- 1. Encouraging students especially undergraduates new to the university to attend similar seminars. Even better would be if the university would add a class that focused on training ethics and peace literacy skills. It may be difficult to add it to the bare core but it would certainly benefit new students going through their academic/professional career. I very strongly want to encourage each individual college to arrange a social event each term centered around specific fields/majors. A place where underclassmen can meet upperclassmen graduate students, TA's, and professors and understand that they are part of a community. Let there be an emphasis on acceptance regardless of skill level, and allow students who are interested in the field interact in a human and comfortable way and speak about their interests, fears, hobbies, expectations, curiosity etc.
- 2. I wholeheartedly endorse the work of peace literacy groups attempting to improve the conflict resolution skills of students and professionals in order to help create a more ethical population capable of tackling the moral challenges of the 21st century.

Marisa Bischel, no affiliation listed (OSU Student MIME)

- 1. Should be its own class for all majors, or paired with the ethics class, or some sort of leadership development class. I can help if needed! I have experience as a TA. I think it's more important that Peace Literacy is taught to elementary school children as that's when they are learning and dealing with new emotions—should be year-long and not just a one day seminar.
- 2. I support Peace Literacy!

Hunter Lottsfeldt, OSU Philosophy Student (left Engineering after 4 years)

- 1. I think there should be more intention with communication such as having a clear syllabus and calendars. I also think there should be more community building activities such as just having a conversation before class starts. Yes I am interested in being a part of this work.
- 2. This workshop is great! I feel that Chappell and Clough do a great job explaining the concepts and how to utilize them to build communities that are intentioned in meeting participants where they are with aim of increasing performance through simple strategies of respect and empathy.

Tristan Thompson, student (OSU Engineering Student, Executive member Advocates for Freethought and Skepticism, President STEAM in Action)

- 1. Make peace literacy into a class, introduce it in Class-STEAM in Action! I would like to do more peace literacy things.
- 2. Peace literacy taught me how to create a more effective environment in my own work!



Nathan Boechler, OSU Civil Engineer Student (junior)

- 1. Incorporating Peace Literacy skills into course learning objectives especially in earlier classes. Use listening and Empathy skills as graded portions of group work projects. Encourage student mentorships in graduate student research projects. Yes, I would love to help.
- 2. Peace literacy training is central to providing engineering students with human interaction and empathy training. Skills such as these will be fundamental to solving the engineering problems that exist now and into the future.

Salma Alawaami, OSU Student School of MIME

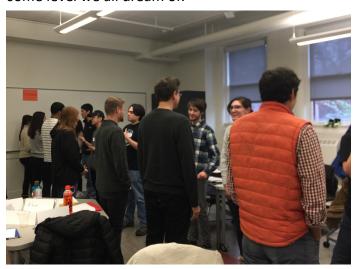
- 1. Creating shared trust can be established when the professors start that relationship, e.g. I have a professor who has us submit an info sheet with our name, picture, hobbies, etc. He actually goes through them and gets familiar with all of the students. It is important to note that there are 70+ students in his class. I think it has to start with the professors and instructors.
- 2. Paul Chappell was a guest lecture in PHL 301, him and professor Clough brought the concept of peace literacy to my attention. It has been very eye opening. I never really knew that I was missing this knowledge but it is such an important thing that people must be exposed to.

Anthony (Tony) Minniti, no affiliation listed (OSU Engineering Student, veteran)

- 1. A community of practice culture in OSU. Regular events promote active community at this university.
- 2. blank

Zachary Lee Advocates for Freethought and Skepticism (OSU Engineering Student)

- 1. I think that classes like the one Devlin is talking about are a good start, and Tony [see above] and I were discussing holding weekly small events over the term regarding peace literacy, both on a "what is it" and skill building level. Part of the problem for engineering majors is that we simply don't have time for many out-of-class things, so one of the best things to do would likely be teaching the professors and specifically looking at how it can be applied in team work situations since that's something that would probably get through to engineers more than a lot of things. I would absolutely be interested in being a part of that work.
- 2. If I'm being honest, I was skeptical about Peace Literacy at first, in large part because it sounded like just the newest way people were saying "If people would just be more peaceful everything would be fine" without actually looking at how that would be accomplished. Turns out, it's the exact opposite. Peace Literacy's approach to conflict analysis and resolution, reversing systematic dehumanization, and understanding of the ways humans work as individuals and in groups could not be more vital or more useful at this time in our society. Peace Literacy takes traditional notions of Peace as a thing that just happens and turns them on their heads, telling us that we need to actually put in some effort to achieve the peace that on some level we all dream of.



Aditya Rajashnarayanan (permission to share from Facebook post - OSU EECS Student)

I'm elated to have taken part in yet another Peace Literacy workshop held by public philosopher Paul K. Chappell and philosophy professor Shari Clough this past weekend. This particular workshop was inspired by CBEE professor Devlin Montfort's desire to seek out engineering student consultants for the formulation of a brand new class that will be offered as an elective next term to students within my program. It was

also sponsored by my club Advocates for Freethought and Skepticism.

I can't say enough about this movement (which is why I will be writing about it prolifically). From an individual standpoint it has inspired me, restored my hope, and reaffirmed my sense of purpose. Additionally I'm really thrilled to know of professors within my own program that understand the need for change and are actively pushing to make it more conducive to thoughtful and responsible engineers.

Alumni Responses:

Brian Davis, OSU Alum Mechanical Engineering

1. Teach it early on (freshman intro classes). Show people how it applies to things they care about/personal struggles they've had. Use it to put a more personal aspect on classes and not just have classes where you take a test and get the grade. And yes, I want to be a part!

My biggest nit w/classes (especially BACC core) is when you're taught from a powerpoint, told there's a meaning, but we don't take the time to explain it, so it feels like each subject exists in an isolated vacuum. You work to pass the class, don't care as much, so it doesn't mean anything. Show people where social skills are directly applicable! Maybe assign exercises to try in life and apply the material.

2. The Peace Literacy workshop provides valuable tools to assist in understanding yourself and others, work better in groups to solve a common problem, and diffuse situations effectively. It feels like the one thing that's missing, and once you know it you see it everywhere. Very glad I participated!

Karen Harper, OSU Alumni from EECS

- 1. I think it makes sense to incorporate some of this work into engineering 101 classes. I think also that in our Capstones classes, writing classes, and other kinds of overarching conceptual classes would be a good place to start.
- 2. The conference was very important for me and helped me further understand my place in my profession and in this world.

Shreyans Khunteta, OSU Alumni EECS, President Emeritus Advocates for Freethought and Skepticism

- 1. I would definitely like to be part of this work. More workshops are absolutely needed. Compensating students for their time in some way like you've done really helps.
- 2. Peace literacy is a framework to reorganize our thought process and social interactions and create a more healthy society.