Course Description:
This online course examines the connection between human rights violation and militarism as effects of the “Westphalian” nation-state and its globalized forms. In order to address these problems, emerging demilitarization and indigenous human rights movements call for new paradigms of governance, order, and relationality to be imagined, communicated, and practiced. These social movements interpret and integrate the philosophy of decolonization into their social movement values and organizing. Studying in the context of Hawaii provides an opportunity to engage with indigenous social movement perspectives about the current order of things, and how they intersect with other cultures. Issues of colonial indoctrination, hegemonic institution building and militarization are covered to describe the institutional manifestation of the Westphalian governance system. Demilitarization and indigenous human rights movements recommend decolonization of subjectivities within and beyond the institutional grids, to generate organic processes of transformation. However, histories of imperialism, colonialism and globalization have transformed many people’s connections and memories to their own indigenous heritages. How do indigenous perspectives of the social order, and methods of addressing its limitations, relate (or not relate) to student understanding of themselves in the social order? Do these social movement perspectives catalyze shifts in how students relate to others, their environment, and themselves? Does it build personal capacity to meaningfully contribute to a social movement that exists in Hawaii, or the world?

General Ed/Focus Requirements:
Writing Intensive (WI), Hawaiian Asian Pacific Islander Focus (HAP) and Ethics (E) requirements. Students will conduct original research on a social movement they are interested in.

Service Learning:
The course offers applied, community based research and service learning opportunities. For students locally based in Oahu, and interested in militarism and human rights movements, the instructor recommends two sites to conduct research:

1) Hawaii Peace and Justice Archive Project, (2426 Oahu Ave. Manoa, Honolulu) is an opportunity for students to develop an inventory of the archival records of an organization that has been involved in peace, sovereignty and demilitarization movements in Hawaii and across the Pacific for over 40 years.

2) Farrington High School Peace and Justice Club, (1564 N. King St., Honolulu) is an opportunity for students who are interested in building mentoring relationships between high school and college students. The goal of this project is to engage in policy and/or action research on how militarism exists in their school and society (i.e. military recruitment and bullying) in a way that is inclusive of differing experiences and voices.

Students may also do research on/with an organization they have an interest in, or existing relationship with. Students may contact Dr. Ulla Hassager at UHM-SCC Service Learning Program (ulla@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-4218. For more information, visit http://servicelearning.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/index.html).