

## The Vietnam War in American Literature and Culture

050.301.01 and 350.393.04

FH B2, TTH 5

Instructor: Professor Barnett (lk\_barnett@fandm.edu)

Office: Murray 020; RAB 208C

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12, RAB 208C (732-932-4254); Thursday 9:30-11:30, Murray 020 (732-932-7562), and by appointment

### Course Objectives

To examine a number of texts, fiction and nonfiction, that reveal the ongoing impact of the Vietnam War on individuals and on American culture.

### List of Required Readings

William Calley, *Lt. Calley, His Own Story* [as told to John Sack] e-reserve

James Carroll, *An American Requiem*

Alex Garland, *The Beach*

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

Larry Heineman, *Close Quarters*

Bao Ninh, *The Sorrow of War*

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

Stewart O'Nan, *The Names of the Dead*

Tobias Wolff, *In Pharaoh's Army*

We will also see several documentary films.

### Requirements

Full participation in the class, beginning with attendance, followed by reading assignments on time, contributing to class discussion, and handing in written work on time. There will be two five page papers and two examinations. Prolonged absence will make it impossible to receive credit for the course.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Leaving and returning to the classroom while class is in session is an unacceptable disruption and will be penalized under the evaluative category of classwork. Should exceptional circumstances require your leaving a class early, please let me know at the beginning of the class or sooner.

Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity policy of Rutgers University at all times.

### Evaluation

Classwork and attendance	10%
Paper 1	20
Paper 2	25
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	25

## Schedule of Assignments

September	5	Introduction
	7	<i>The Quiet American</i>
	12	<i>The Quiet American</i>
	14	<i>Close Quarters</i>
	19	<i>Close Quarters</i>
	21	<i>Close Quarters</i>
	26	<i>The Things They Carried</i>
	28	<i>The Things They Carried</i>
October	3	<i>The Things They Carried</i> <b>Paper 1 due</b>
	5	<i>The Sorrow of War</i>
	10	<i>The Sorrow of War</i>
	12	<i>An American Requiem</i>
	17	<i>An American Requiem</i>
	19	<i>An American Requiem</i>
	24	<i>In Pharaoh's Army</i>
	26	<i>In Pharaoh's Army</i>
	31	<i>In Pharaoh's Army</i> <b>Paper 2 due</b>
November	2	<i>Lt. Calley: His Own Story</i> : <u>e-reserve</u>
	7	<i>Lt. Calley: His Own Story</i>
	9	<i>Stolen Valor</i> : <u>e-reserve</u>
	14	<b>In class exam</b>
	16	<i>The Names of the Dead</i>
	21	<i>The Names of the Dead</i>
	28	<i>The Names of the Dead</i>
	30	<i>The Beach</i>
December	5	<i>The Beach</i>
	7	<i>The Beach</i>
	12	<i>The Beach</i>
	15	<b>Take home final exam due by noon</b>

**NOTE:** The number of pages in an assigned text that you are responsible for in a given class will depend on the number of classes we are spending on that text. For example, for *The Quiet American*, divide the page numbers by two. You will be responsible for the first half of the book on September 7, and the complete novel on September 12. For a text that we are spending three class periods on, divide the number of pages by 3.