American Studies Junior Seminar:  
The Cultural Consequences of Modern War

Course # 01 050 389 03  
Department of American Studies  
Rutgers University, Spring 2007  
Tuesdays, 9:15-12:15 AM, Ruth Adams Building Room 018  
Professor Ellen D. Wu (ellenwu@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Office Hours: Fridays, 10 AM-12 Noon or by appointment, RAB 205E

Course Description  
This course examines American culture through the lens of war from the mid-19th century to the present. We will consider in particular the consequences, broadly construed, of various domestic and international military and ideological conflicts in which the United States has engaged in the past 150 years, beginning with the Civil War and ending with the current “War on Terror.” Major themes to be explored include representation, memory, imperialism, family, class, gender, race, and nation-building. Readings, films, and discussions will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to our study of American cultural formation and will include both primary and secondary sources.

A major purpose of the Junior Seminar is to provide students with preliminary training in analytical and methodological skills necessary to pursue a research project in American Studies. We will devote a major portion of our efforts to facilitating the production of a substantial research paper based on primary sources. As such, we will pay special attention to learning how to identify and frame interesting and significant problems, locate sources, interpret and deploy evidence, draw from useful analytical and methodological approaches, develop persuasive narrative strategies, revisit and sharpen our ideas through the writing of multiple drafts, and critique each others’ work in a constructive and supportive environment.

Required Texts  
-Alexander Gardner, Gardner’s Photographic Sketchbook of the Civil War (Dover, 1959).  
-Susan Sontag, Regarding the Pain of Others (Picador, 2004).  
The books listed above are available for purchase at the Douglass Student Co-op Bookstore and will also be placed on reserve at the Douglass Library. Other readings on the syllabus will be available for downloading through electronic reserve on the Rutgers Libraries website (listed under Instructors “Wu” and/or “Hallett”).

**Films** (to be screened in class)
*Bontoc Eulogy* (Marlon Fuentes, 1995)
*The Best Years Of Our Lives* (William Wyler, 1946)
*First Personal Plural* (Deann Borshay Leim, 2001)
*Hair* (Milos Forman, 1979)
*When I Came Home* (Dan Lohaus, 2006)

**Assignments, Grading, and Course Policies**

**Full Attendance and Spirited Participation=30%**
On-time attendance is mandatory. More than one class sections without valid and documented reason or chronic tardiness will lead to affect your grade negatively. To have an absence counted as “excused,” it must be accompanied by appropriate documentation which clearly demonstrates the reason for and validity of the absence (e.g., a dated doctor’s note), a copy of which must be presented to the instructor. Missing more than four class sessions will result in an automatic failing grade (F) for the course. If you must miss a screening, you are responsible for viewing the film at the Music Library on Douglass Campus.
Spirited participation comprises more than simply being present in class. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to engage actively and thoughtfully in the day’s discussion.
Note that cell phones will not be tolerated in class. Any cell phone usage (making and receiving calls and text messaging) will result in a deduction in your participation grade.

**Short Paper=10%**
Due Tuesday 23 January at the beginning of class. (2-3 pages)

**Prospectus, First Draft** Due Friday 26 January, 5 pm posted to SAKAI

**Preliminary Annotated Bibliography** Due Tuesday, 6 February at the beginning of class.

**Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography, Final Draft=10%**
Due Friday, 16 February, 5 pm, via email to instructor

**Paper, First Draft=10%**
Due Thursday, 8 March, 5 pm via email to instructor and small group members.

**Paper, Second Draft (complete draft)=20%**
Due Friday, 6 April, 5 pm via email to instructor and small group members.

**Final Draft=20%**
The final paper should be between 12-15 pages long, related to the theme of the course, and based on original research utilizing primary sources. Due **Monday 30 April at 12 noon** in the American Studies office, RAB 024 (hard copies only).
Late Assignments
There will be a grade penalty for assignments turned in past deadline. One grade increment will be deducted for each 24 hours late.

Academic Honesty
Students not yet familiar with Rutgers’ policies on plagiarism and academic honesty should familiarize themselves with the University’s guidelines. (See http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html.) Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will lead to an automatic failing grade in the course (F).

Changes to Syllabus
The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the syllabus

Week 1: Welcome and Introduction [Tuesday, 16 January]
Workshop: Using Primary Sources

Week 2: Civil War [Tuesday 23 January]
- Gardner, Gardner’s Photographic Sketches of the Civil War
- Sontag, Regarding the Pain of Others

Workshop: Drafting Paper Proposals

***Short Paper Due in class***

Week 3: Spanish-American/Philippine-American War [Tuesday 30 January]

Film: Bontoc Eulogy
Workshop: Drafting Paper Proposals

***First Draft of Prospectus Due Friday 26 January, 5pm posted to SAKAI***

Week 4: The Great War [Tuesday 6 February]
[NOTE: This class session will be held at the Special Collections/University Archives, located on the basement level of the Alexander Library, College Avenue Campus.]

- John Dos Passos, 1919: Volume Two of the USA Trilogy (Mariner, 2000) [selections]

***Preliminary Annotated Bibliography Due in class***

**Week 5: World War II (Part One) [Tuesday 13 February]**

  Film: *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946)

  Workshop: Navigating On-line Resources (location TBA)

***Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography Due Friday 16 February, 5 pm via email to instructor***

**Week 6: Writing Week [Tuesday 20 February]**
  Workshop: Individual Meetings [meet in RAB 205E]

**Week 7: World War II (Part Two) [Tuesday 27 February]**
- Okada, *No-No Boy*

  Workshop: Bibliography and Citations

**Week 8: Korean War [Tuesday 6 March]**

  Film: *First Person Plural*

***First Draft Due Thursday 8 March, 5 pm via email to instructor and small group members***

**Week 9: Writing Week [Tuesday 20 March]**
  Workshop: First Draft Critiques
Week 10: Cold War [Tuesday 27 March]
-Von Eschen, *Satchmo Blows Up The World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War*

Workshop: Plagiarism

Week 11: Vietnam (Part One) [Tuesday 3 April]
-Young et al, *A History of the Vietnam War With Documents*

Workshop: Giving Paper Presentations

***Second Draft Due Friday 6 April, 5 pm via email to instructor and small group members***

Week 12: Writing Week [Tuesday 10 April]
Workshop: Second Draft Critiques

Week 13: Vietnam (Part Two) [Tuesday 17 April]
-Didion, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*

Film: *Hair*

Week 14: “War On Terror” [Tuesday 24 April]
-Tram Nguyen, Introduction (pp. xiii-xxiii), Chapter One, “Becoming Suspects: Brooklyn and New Jersey” (pp. 1-19), and Chapter Four, “The New Racial Profiling: Los Angeles” (pp. 72-90), and notes (pp. 178-180, 183-184), in *We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant Communities After 9/11* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2005).

Film: *When I Came Home*

Workshop: Individual Paper Presentations

***FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY 30 APRIL, 12 NOON***
(submit to American Studies Office, RAB 024)