

OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

Course Outline

English 389 - The Vietnam Experience
Fall 1991 Semester
Professors Carpenter and Morris

I. Objectives of the Course

The student will be evaluated on the basis of his/her ability:

- A. To define the essential characteristics and concerns of the fiction, nonfiction and poetry spawned by the Vietnam War.
- B. To analyze and otherwise discuss the assigned readings. The analysis and discussion will focus largely on the causes, conduct and results of the Vietnam War from the points of view of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.
- C. To examine (within the context of the assigned readings) the nature and future of "limited wars" and by extension the phenomenon of human warfare.

II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course

- A. Brief factual quizzes on the assigned readings
- B. In-class writing assignments
- C. Participation in group presentations on topics to be assigned later
- D. A midterm examination
- E. A research paper on a topic to be assigned later
- F. Participation in class discussion
- G. Final examination

III. Grading Practices

Class participation:	5%
Quizzes and in-class writing:	15%
Midterm exam:	20%
Presentation:	15%
Research paper:	20%
Final exam:	25%

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IV. Texts

History: Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam, by Frances Fitzgerald

Nonfiction: Dispatches, by Michael Herr
Armies of the Night, by Norman Mailer

Fiction: The Quiet American, by Graham Greene
Close Quarters, by Larry Heineman
A Rumor of War, by Phillip Caputo
Paco's Story, by Larry Heineman
Fields of Fire, by James Webb
Going After Cacciato, by Tim O'Brien

Selected poetry and short stories

Films:	<u>Apocalypse Now</u>	<u>Full Metal Jacket</u>
	<u>The Deer Hunter</u>	<u>Hamburger Hill</u>
	<u>A Rumor of War</u>	<u>Swimming to Cambodia</u>
	<u>Coming Home</u>	<u>The Killing Fields</u>
	<u>Platoon</u>	<u>The Doors</u>

V. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

August 26-30	Vietnamese History & Culture: An Overview Chapters 1-3 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u>
September 2-6	The French and the Viet Minh <u>The Quiet American</u> , by Graham Greene
September 9-13	North Vietnamese & Viet Cong Chapter 4 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u> <u>Close Quarters</u> , by Larry Heineman
September 16-20	South Vietnamese Overview of War Literature Selected Poetry
September 23-27	The U.S. Entrance Chapters 5-7 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u> <u>Dispatches</u> , by Michael Herr
September 30 - Oct. 4	Escalation Chapters 8-12 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u> <u>A Rumor of War</u> , by Phillip Caputo
October 7-11	Tactics and Strategy: U.S. and South Vietnam Chapter 13 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u> <u>Midterm Exam</u>

October 14-18	Spring Recess
October 21-25	Tactics and Strategy: North Vietnamese and Viet Cong Chapters 14-15 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u> <u>Paco's Story</u> , by Larry Heineman
October 28-November 1	The Anti-War Movement <u>Armies of the Night</u> , by Norman Mailer
November 4-8	The Anti-War Movement <u>Fields of Fire</u> , by James Webb
November 11-15	Vietnamization and the Deterioration of the U.S. Military in Vietnam Chapters 16-17 in <u>Fire in the Lake</u>
November 18-22	Final Collapse/Ultimate Victory <u>Going After Cacciato</u> , by Tim O'Brian
November 26-29	Human Effects of the War Selected Stories <u>Research Paper Due</u>
December 2-6	The Nature and Future of Human Warfare
December 9-13	Final Examination