

**Oxford College of Emory University**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

ENG 389R – American Literature of the Vietnam War  
Dr. Lucas Carpenter  
Spring 2001 Semester

**I. Objectives of the Course**

- A. To understand and appreciate representative works of poetry, fiction, and drama from American literature of the Vietnam War
- B. To define the essential characteristics and concerns of that literature
- C. To become familiar with the historical-cultural milieu within which the American literature of the Vietnam War appears
- D. To speculate regarding the nature of war literature and war itself

**II. Student Requirements for Completing the Course**

- A. Brief quizzes which will precede the discussion of assigned literary works. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.
- B. Several in-class writing assignments and presentations. There are no make-ups for these assignments.
- C. Two critical essays (5 printed pages) to be assigned later. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.
- D. A midterm examination composed of factual and essay questions devoted to literature covered in the first half of the course.
- E. A comprehensive final examination composed of factual and essay questions.
- F. Satisfactory participation in class discussion, which can only be accomplished if the attendance policy is rigorously observed.

**III. Attendance Policy**

- A. After three (3) absences, one point will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence. The student will be held responsible for any assignments made when s/he is absent.

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- B. Students who are late must assume personal responsibility to see that the record is altered at the end of class. The record will not be changed at a later date.

#### IV. Grading Practices

Grading will generally adhere to the following:

Class participation	5%
Quizzes and in-class writing	15%
Two critical essays	40%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	25%

#### V. Texts

*Dispatches*, by Michael Herr  
*A Rumor of War*, by Philip Caputo  
*Armies of the Night*, by Norman Mailer  
*Fields of Fire*, by James Webb  
*Going After Cacciato*, by Tim O'Brien  
*The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien  
*In Country*, by Bobbie Ann Mason  
*The 13<sup>th</sup> Valley*, by James Del Vecchio  
*The Vietnam Plays*, by David Rabe  
A compilation of poetry by Bruce Weigl, Yusef Komunyakaa, Peter Katopes and Lucas Carpenter.

#### VI. Weekly Outline of Topics to be Covered

January 17-19	Introductory
January 22-26	<i>Dispatches</i>
January 29-February 2	<i>A Rumor of War</i>
February 5-9	<i>Armies of the Night</i>
February 12-16	<i>Fields of Fire</i>
February 19-23	<i>Fields of Fire</i> <b>First Essay Due</b>
February 26-March 2	<i>Going After Cacciato</i>
March 5-9	Poetry <b>Midterm Examination</b>

March 12-16	Spring Break
March 19-23	<i>The Things They Carried</i>
March 26-30	<i>The 13<sup>th</sup> Valley</i>
April 2-6	<i>The 13<sup>th</sup> Valley</i>
April 9-13	<i>In Country</i>
April 16-20	<i>The Vietnam Plays</i> <b>Second Essay Due</b>
April 23-27	<i>The Vietnam Plays</i>
April 30	Last Class
May 4, 2-5 PM	<b>Final Exam</b>

## **VII. Office Hours**

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are **Monday-Friday, 1-3 PM**. If these hours are ever inconvenient, appointments can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to see me about anything that is of concern to you.

## **VIII. Honor Code**

I assume that you are familiar with the Honor Code and that you know what **plagiarism** is.