

**Oxford College of Emory University**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Eng 389R – American War Literature: Gettysburg to the Gulf**

Dr. Lucas Carpenter

Spring 2007 Semester

**I. Objectives of the Course**

- A. To understand and appreciate representative works of poetry, fiction, and drama from American war literature.
- B. To define the essential characteristics and concerns of that literature.
- C. To become familiar with the historical-cultural milieu within which American war literature 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.
- 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	20%
Two critical essays	40%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	20%

#### V. Texts

*The Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane  
*A Farewell to Arms*, by Ernest Hemingway  
*The Enormous Room*, by E.E. Cummings  
*The Naked and the Dead*, by Norman Mailer  
*Catch-22*, by Joseph Heller  
*The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien  
*Meditations in Green*, by Stephen Wright  
*Jarhead*, by Anthony Swofford  
*American War Poetry: An Anthology*, by Lorrie Goldensohn

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

January 17-19	Introductory
January 22-26	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> Civil War Poetry
January 29-February 2	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i>
February 5-9	<i>A Farewell to Arms/The Enormous Room</i>
February 12-16	<i>The Enormous Room</i> WW I Poetry
February 19-23	<i>The Naked and the Dead</i> <b>First Essay Due</b>
February 26-March 2	<i>The Naked and the Dead</i>
March 5-9	World War II Poetry <b>Midterm Examination</b>
March 12-16	Spring Break
March 19-23	<i>Catch-22</i>

March 26-30	<i>Catch-22/ The Things They Carried</i>
April 2-6	<i>The Things They Carried</i> Vietnam War poetry
April 9-13	<i>Meditations in Green</i>
April 16-20	<i>Jarhead</i> <b>Second Essay Due</b>
April 23-27	<i>Jarhead</i> Gulf War Poetry
April 30	Last Class
May 8, 9 am-12 noon	Final Exam

## VII. Office Hours

My office is located in Humanities Hall, Room 105, and my office hours are **Monday-Friday, 2-3 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.