



CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Jan. 10, 1991

Dear Jerry:

Here's our syllabus for the Vietnam course, along with the pre and post student evaluation forms. My friends, the Kings, are supposed to do the analysis of the evaluations, and I can send you a copy when they've finished it.

The idea you suggested for a module on the women's perspective is excellent and essential. I would urge that the text also include something on male socialization in aggression and warfare somewhere. I might even be willing to try my hand on that. I go into it extensively on my segment on Ron Kovic's conditioning, as he lays it out in chapter 3 of Born on the Fourth of July.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norm".

Norm Rasulis

**Vietnam and the American Experience
(questionnaire)**

Please fill out this questionnaire and return it in class next week, Sept.4.

1. Name

2. Major

3. Reason for taking this course?

4. Did you or any member of your family serve in the military during the Vietnam War? If so, indicate relationship, e.g. self, father, husband, etc.

VIETNAM AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

COURSE NO'S: ENG 395A, BCA 320, HST 397A, PSC 398, PSY 400A, REL 397, SOC 399E, PHL 397A.

Fall, 1990

Pearce 138

Tuesday, 7:00-9:50 p.m.

Course Objectives

This course will explore the significance of the Vietnam War and its profound impact and meaning for America.

Texts:

Center for Social Studies Education, The Lessons of the Vietnam War

Terry, Wallace, Bloods

Kovic, Ron, Born on the Fourth of July

Course Pac, purchase at Kinko's, 1620 S. Mission

Films:

No Substitute for Victory

Hearts and Minds

There will be additional films and tapes on reserve at SISC for individual viewing.

Requirements:

There will be **two exams** administered at the testing center during the sixth and eleventh weeks, **and a final exam** in class during the final exam period. Each exam will be based on the reading, lectures and films from the preceding segment of the course. Study questions will be assigned one week before each exam. All exams scheduled at the testing center in Robinson Hall must be taken during the times announced in class. Small group discussions will normally follow the lectures and other presentations. From week to week during our group discussions there may be **a short, 5-10 minute test** on the reading and lectures at that point in the semester. **Exam grades will constitute 75% of your grade for the course, and the short tests will be 25%.**

Students will be required to read all the material assigned in the syllabus.

For questions about grading, please see **Professor Rasulis**.

Procedures and Methods

Lectures, symposia, small group discussions, films

Faculty office numbers, phone numbers and office hours:**Norm Rasulis, ENG, Coordinator**

An 209, 3146

TTH 12:30-2:00, W 1:30-4:30

& by appt.

Blaine Stevenson, SASW

An 136, 3564

MWF 10:00-11:00

TTh 2:30-3:30 & by appt.

Alice Littlefield, SASW

An 222, 3122

M 1-3, TTh 3:30-4:30

James Schmiechen, HST

An 113, 3592

On leave

Joyce Henricks, PHL

An 213, 3570

T. Th. 1:30-2:00,
3:30-4:00 & by appt.

John Dinse, PSC

An 244, 3438

MWF 10:00-11:00, MW 2:00-3:00

Ken Jurkiewicz, BCA

Moore 342, 7278

MW 8:30-10:00, 10:00-2:00

Lynda King, PSY

Sloan 204, 6488

MW 12:30-2:00, 4:30-5:30

Don King, PSY

Sloan 235, 6482

MW 12:30-2:00,
F 12:30-2:30

Bob Newby, SASW

An 139, 3410

TTh 9:30-11:30

Robin Hough, REL

Moore 436, 3793

MW 1:00-3:00

Week 1: Aug. 28 , Intro to Vietnam and the American Experience

Professor Rasulis will give a short introduction explaining the format and scope of the course.

We will view the film, No Substitute for Victory, which will touch on many of the major issues of the course.

Professors Dinse, Henricks, Hough, Jurkiewicz, King, King, Littlefield, Newby, Schmiechen, and Stevenson will speak briefly, in turn, describing his/her contribution to the course.

Week 2: Sept. 4, Introduction to Vietnam: Land, Culture and History

Readings for week 2: Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 1, pp. 3-30.
Course Pac: "Vietnam Declaration of Independence (September 2, 1945)," pp. 1-3; "Hill Farms and Padi Fields," pp. 40-50; Bloods, "Chronology of Major Events in the Vietnam War," pp. 292-298.

Professors: **Jim Schmiechen and Alice Littlefield**

Week 3: Sept. 11, America at War in Vietnam: Decisions and Consequences

Readings for week 3: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 2, pp.3-30.
Course Pac: Vietnam: War, Socialism, and the Politics of Gender Relations," pp.12-22.

Professors: **Robin Hough and Alice Littlefield**

Week 4: Sept. 18, The Cold War

Readings for week 4: **Course Pac:** "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," pp.23-39; "The United States and Eastern Asia," pp.40-50; from The Haunted Fifties by I. F. Stone, pp.51-61; from The Twentieth Century: A People's History by Howard Zinn, pp.62-71.

Professors: **John Dinse and Norm Rasulis**

Week 5: Sept. 25, Was the Vietnam War Legal, Moral and/or Just?

Readings for week 5: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 3, pp.3-30.

Professors: **Robin Hough and Blaine Stevenson**

Exam no. 1 at Testing Center (CLAS), Robinson Hall, Oct. 1-5.

Week 6: Oct. 2, Who Fought for the U.S.?

Readings for week 6: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 4, pp.3-30.
Course Pac: "The War That Won't Go Away," pp.73-79; Bloods, Introduction, pp. XII-XVI; pp. 1-78; 200-228; 266-291.

Professors: **Don King, Lynda King and Bob Newby**

Week 7: Oct. 9, How the U.S. Fought the War

Readings for week7: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 5, pp. 3-29.
Course Pac: "The Political and Military Line of our Party," pp.81-89.

Professors: **Robin Hough and Don King**

Week 8: Oct. 16, When War Becomes a Crime: The Case of My Lai.

Readings for week 8: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 6, pp.3-30.
Course Pac: "The Politics of Rape," pp.91-108.

Professors: **Joyce Henricks and Blaine Stevenson**

Week 9: Oct. 23, Hearts and Minds

Readings for week 9: Start reading: Born on the Fourth of July, pp. 14-110.

Film: Hearts and Minds

Professor: **Ken Jurkiewicz**

Week 10, Oct. 30, Taking Sides: The War at Home

Readings for week 10: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 7, pp. 3-30. **Course Pac:** "The Port Huron Statement," pp.109-128; SNCC Position Paper: Vietnam," "The Ballot or the Bullet," "Sex and Caste: A Kind of Memo," "What We Want," "Rebellion in Newark," pp129-145.

Professors: **Bob Newby and John Dinse**

Exam no. 2 at Testing Center (CLAS), Robinson Hall, Nov. 5-9.

Week 11: Nov. 6, How the War Was Portrayed and Reported

Readings for week 11: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 8, pp.3-30. **Course Pac:** Jurkiewicz' outline on Vietnam War movies pp.146-149; "Propaganda American Style," pp.150-155.

Professors: **Ken Jurkiewicz and Mitch Hall (guest lecturer)**

Week 12: Nov. 13, The Vietnam War in American Literature and Music

Readings for Week 12: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 9, pp. 3-30. Finish Born on the Fourth of July, pp.111-224.

Professors: **Norman Rosulis and Robin Hough**

Week 13: Nov. 20, The Wounds of War and The Process of Healing

Readings for week 13: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 10, pp. 3-28. **Course Pac:** Caricatures by David Levine, pp. 156-163.

Discussions and guest presentations: **Vietnam veterans: Jake Edmund and Bill Sublett**

Week 14: Nov. 27, The Wounds of War and the Process of Healing (2)

Readings for week 14: **Course Pac:** "Focus on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder," pp. 164-167; from A Piece of My Heart, pp. 168-174.

Professors: **Dan King and Lynda King**

Week 15: Dec. 4, The Vietnam War: Lessons from Yesterday for Today

Readings for week 15: The Lessons of the Vietnam War, Unit 11, pp. 3-29 and 12, pp.3-28.

A Roundtable with **All Instructors.**

Week 16: Dec. 11, Final Exam, Pearce 138, 7:00-10:00

Vietnam and the American Experience
Course Evaluation, fall, 1990

We would appreciate your evaluation of the course this semester. Please therefore take the time to respond to the questions on this form and on the accompanying computer sheet.

1. What department (course designator) were you enrolled in for this course?

2. What experiences in this course (specific lectures, readings, videos, music, etc.) did you find most informative or valuable? Please list.

3. Was this course what you expected? Why or why not?

4. Would you recommend this course to a friend? Why or why not?

5. What suggestions do you have for improving this course? Please list specific suggestions.

6. This course was interdisciplinary, involving faculty from many departments. Did this feature add to your understanding of the material covered?

Course Evaluation, p. 2

Please rate the following aspects of this course on the following scale on the computer sheet: (If you missed the event or reading, leave it blank.)

1	2	3	4	5
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good

1. Lessons of the Vietnam War, Center for Social Studies Education.
2. Born on the Fourth of July, R. Kovic.
3. Bloods, W. Terry.
4. Course Pac.
5. Film: "No Substitute for Victory" (John Wayne)
6. Lecture on the historical background to the Vietnam War prior to American intervention.
7. Lectures on the cultural background to the Vietnam War prior to American intervention.
8. Lectures on the Cold War and McCarthyism.
9. Lecture on the American military intervention in the Vietnam War.
10. Lectures on the morality and legality of the Vietnam War.
11. Lectures on the My Lai Massacre.
12. Lectures on the Civil Rights Movement and Afro-American participation in the Vietnam War.
13. Lectures on the Draft.
14. Lectures on the U.S. military strategy and counterinsurgency in Vietnam.
15. Lecture on the Anti-War Movement.
16. Lecture on the New Left and origins of the anti-war movement movements at home.
17. Lecture on the anti-war movement among soldiers and veterans.
18. Film: "Hearts and Minds"
19. Lecture on Vietnam War films.
20. Lectures on Born on the Fourth of July and Vietnam war poetry and music.
21. Vietnam veterans' panel discussion.
22. Lecture on Vietnam veterans' recovery issues.
23. Videos, films and audiocassettes used in class.
24. Fairness of test questions.
25. Fairness of grading.
26. Discussion sections
27. The course as a whole.