

JUSTICE IN WAR

"Vietnam? You think you have to tell me about Vietnam? Of course it won't be Vietnam. We are going to go in, overthrow Saddam Hussein and get out. That's it."

Donald Rumsfeld

This course compares the American war in Vietnam (1965-1973) with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (2001-????). To avoid having our judgments become unprofessionally political, class discussions and written work must demonstrate an understanding of both "Hawk" and "Dove" positions. The following books are required:

Caputo, Philip, Rumor of War
Tim O'Brian, The Things They Carried
Truong Nhu Tang, A Vietcong Memoir

Other required readings are found on Blackboard. There will also be some self directed reading assignments marked **SDR**.

Vietnam veteran Judge Rees Barksdale will teach the four classes marked **JRB**

Course requirements include: (1) the Honor's College class attendance and academic honesty policies (2) active participation in class; (3) a 3 page "Reaction Paper" due February 15 (4) a Midterm Examination on March 10 (5) a one page statement of your final paper topic due April 12 and a five page paper due April 26, and (6) a Final Examination. These will be graded roughly equally, but your effort and improvement will also be considered.

Professor Frost's office is Croft 218. His e-mail is <pkf@olemiss.edu> and his phone is x-3771. Office Hours Tuesday 1-3 or by appointment. Judge Barksdale's office hours at the Honors College will be announced in class. Please help us get to know you!

CLASS SCHEDULE

A. Setting the Stage: In this unit we discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the South Vietnamese government on the one hand, and the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese government on the other.

1. Introduction (Jan. 25)

No assignment
Topic: What is Vietnam like?

2. The Saigon Government (Jan. 27)

Truong Nhu Tang, 1-41, Fishel
Topic: How democratic was Ngo Dinh Diem?

3. The National Liberation Front (Feb. 1)

Truong Nhu Tang, 63-116, 319-328
Topic: What is "People's War"?

4. Huynh Van Kim (Feb. 3)

Sheehan
Topic: What motivates Huynh Van Kim?

B. The United States Gets Involved: Here we discuss why the United States entered the war, whether it followed the right strategy. how much our efforts were hurt by the anti-war movement and whether the Communist triumph could have been prevented. Vietnam Veteran Judge Reese Barksdale will help us here.

5. **JRB** The US Enters the War (Feb. 8)

Gelb, Wolf
Topic: Why did the US care?

6. **JRB** The Debate over Strategy (Feb. 10)

Caputo, 3-110
Topic: Which strategy is best?
**3 page paper due start of next class
(instructions handed out in class)**

7. Video Class: My Lai (Feb. 15)

SDR, in-class video (90 minutes)

Topic: Who was responsible?

8. The Antiwar Movement (Feb. 17)

Mueller (Vietnam), King, Osnos

Topic: Were anti-war protests effective?

9. The Paris Peace Agreement (Feb. 22)

Truong Nhu Tang, 117-185, 186 - 218, Nixon

Topic: Did Congressional Liberals lose the peace?

C. Aftershocks: In this unit we look at what happened in Vietnam, the controversy over Cambodia's holocaust, and the controversies surrounding the Vietnam Memorial. As always, our emphasis will be on understanding "Hawk" and "Dove" perspectives.

10. Vietnam (Feb. 24)

Truong Nhu Tang, 186 - 198, 258-270, Gottschang

Topic: What is happening?

11. Cambodia: The Rise of the Khmer Rouge (Mar. 1)

Shawcross

Topic: Who or what created the Khmer Rouge?

12. Cambodia: The Killing Fields (Mar. 3)

In class video "The Killing Fields" (142 minutes)

Topic: is "The Killing Fields" fair?

13. The United States: The Wall (Mar. 8)

Franklin, in class video "Maya Lin" (30 minutes)

Topic. Why is the Vietnam Memorial so popular?

14. MIDTERM EXAMINATION (Mar. 10)

Regular class hour: PKF will provide bluebooks

SPRING BREAK

D. Afghanistan & Iraq: As in the Vietnam unit, we will discuss here the strength of the insurgencies, the reasons for the US interventions and the relative differences between the anti-war movements of the 1960's and today. Special guests will bring us up to date.

15. Militant Islam (Mar. 22)

Reuter, Osama Bin Laden
Topic: What justifies terrorism?

16. Afghanistan & Iraq (Mar. 24)

SDR
Topic: Can these countries be democratic?

17. The US Decision to Intervene (Mar. 29)

Greenberger & Leggett, Bush, Bremer
Topic: Was the intervention justified?

18. Grunts (Mar. 31)

"Restrepo" video in class (90 minutes)
Topic; Do men love war?

19. **JRB** The Strategy Debate (Apr. 5)

Krepinevich, Lynch
Topic: Does the Vietnam analogy hold?

20. **JRB** What Next? (Apr. 7)

(Readings will be assigned later)
Topic: To be announced
One page statement of your paper topic due start of next class

21. Reactions (Apr. 12)

Mueller (Iraq), SDR media selections
Topic: Why no peace movement?

22. Updates: Guests Michael Hastings and Elise Jordan (Apr. 14)

Hastings
Topic: What is the current situation?

5 Justice in War: Finally, we discuss both additional legal issues and topics that each of you have explored in your papers.

23. Philip Caputo (Apr. 19)

Caputo, esp. XX111-XX1, 211-237
Topic: Is Caputo guilty?

24. Tim O'Brian (Apr. 21)

O'Brian 1-130, 179-188, 225-246
Topic: Is "story truth" better?

Five page paper on your topic due start of next class

25. Francis Coppola (Apr. 26)

"Apocalypse Now" video in class (150 minutes)
Topic: What is the film's message?

26. Guantanamo and Torture (Apr. 28)

John Yoo memo, Abu Grahیب (both on line)
Topic; is "Story Truth" better?

27. **Oral Reports (May 3)**

Possible short reading assignment
Topics to be announced

28. **Oral Reports (May 5)**

Possible short reading assignment
Topics to be announced

Final Examination