

Religious Studies 155
The Vietnam War: Religious
Implications
Winter Quarter, 1986

O U T L I N E O F F I R S T W E E K S

- I. January 7 -- Orientation to the Course; course objectives and requirements; preview of issues and topics to be addressed.
- II. January 9 -- The Vietnam War as an event in Post-World War II American History; a chronicle of major social, cultural and political events within the United States since 1945.
- III. January 14 - The Vietnam War within the context of the 1960s; the war and the Civil Rights movement; the war and the Great Society; the war and 1960s national religious sentiment.
- IV. January 16 - How and Why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C. was built.
Special Guests: John Wheeler, President, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and Sandie Fauriol, Executive Director, Project on the Vietnam Generation, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.
- V. January 21 - Reflections on the Meaning and non-Meaning of the War.
Special Guest: William Mahedy, former Army Chaplain, Vietnam Vet, Team Leader, Co-founder of national Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program.
- VI. January 23 - In Vietnam Itself: Conflicts of National and International Interests, from 1945 to 1954; Ho Chi Minh; the United States and France; Worldwide Communist Expansion; Battle of Dienbienphu; Geneva Convention
- VII. January 28 - Testimony from two Vietnam Veterans:
Speakers: Wilson Hubbel and John Murphy
- VIII. January 30 - Women in Vietnam
Special Guest: Rose Sandeck, Vietnam Vet, Army Nurse, Team Leader, Vet Center in Concord, California

- IX. February 4 - Conscientious Objection: What it Entailed;
How it Looks Now.
Special Guest: James L. Quay, Executive
Director, California Council for the
Humanities, San Francisco

- X. February 6 - Summing up the First Half of the Course: Pre-
liminary Conclusions; the unfinished agenda.

Addresses of Special Guests:

Dr. James L. Quay
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California Council for the Humanities
312 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA. 94108

The Rev. William Mahedy*
4164 Mt. Herbert Ave.
San Diego, CA. 92117

Ms. Sandie Fauriol
Executive Director
Project on the Vietnam Generation
National Museum of American History
Smithsonian Institution
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Ms. Rose Sandecki
Team Leader
The Vet Center
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Concord, CA. 94520

Mr. John Wheeler*
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Bethesda, Md. 20817

* indicates home address

NOTE: Optional Term Project due February 25 (no exceptions)

UNDERSTANDING THE RS 155 GRADING RESULTS: WINTER, 1986.

First, Professor Capps, John Simmons, Nancy McCagney and Jeff Kenney would like to thank you all for an inspiring Winter Quarter. Our only regret is that the size of the class and staff limitations prevented us from getting to know more of you and providing you with more personal attention and guidance, especially regarding your term papers and projects. Unfortunately, it was simply not possible to make extensive comments on the final papers. We would, however, like to assure you that we made painstaking efforts to reach an acceptable level of fairness, objectivity, and consistency in the grading process. Since staff is limited in the religious studies department, we are always faced with a difficult decision regarding RS 155: to limit the enrollment to 450 students, or allow as many as possible to experience the course. Until we hear otherwise from UCSB students, the only determining factor effecting enrollment will be the number of seats in the largest lecture hall on the UCSB campus.

FINAL SCALE:

100+ - 96 = A+
95 - 88 = A
87 = A-
86 = B+
85 - 82 = B
80 - 81 = B-
79 = C+
78 - 70 = C

As you can see, the final scale is extremely generous on the top end. This serves as an adjustment on the objective portion of the final. Students could still miss 5 - 7 of the more difficult questions, and, if they had been successful on the written portion of the final, earn an "A" for the course. Also, each objective test (3) was graded on a different scale. We took the time to plot a curve on each of the three exams, and, thus, achieve fairness overall. The grade on the top of the objective final represents an "adjusted grade" and, therefore, may or may not be the actual mathematical total of successful answers on a particular test. Your final numerical grade is the sum total of mid-term, extra credit, objective final, written final.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO RE-EVALUATION OF FINAL GRADES OR RE-READING OF FINAL PAPERS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. As stated above, Professor Capps and the TAs took extra time to assure fairness, knowing, that once the quarter ended, it would simply be impossible to adjust grades. No one will be here to do it.
2. Despite moans and groans, the objective test, over the span of 937 students, did exactly what it was supposed to do: to determine who did the reading and regularly attended lecture and to reward them for it. We all know that "Religion and the Impact of the Vietnam War" is a very special class. Many of you have made a major emotional commitment to the class, and, no doubt, reaped appropriate rewards. Even if such commitment could be graded, we would never consider doing it. As is the case in all academic endeavor, you are graded on your assimilation of class materials and your ability to effectively demonstrate what you have learned during a process of examination. "Authors, dates, places, etc." very much do have a lot to do with RS 155, and, students who recognized this and studied got better grades.
3. The grading scale is a guide line - not an absolute. Certain, "intangibles" may have raised, or lowered, a mathematical outcome.

*A copy for you
for 12/87*

ORIENTATION TO THE COURSE

Religious Studies 155 focuses on the dynamics of the Vietnam War and its influence upon American social, cultural and religious life. The course recognizes that the war is a major formative event in recent American history, the meaning and ramifications of which are still being debated and interpreted, and the lessons from which are still being discovered. We will try to gain intellectual background and perspective on this subject by studying the history of the war, the factors that encouraged armed conflict, the consternation that prevailed at home, the psychological circumstances (both individually and collectively) in which the fighting forces found themselves, the delayed but now realized homecoming, and the interdependence of these events with other movements, issues and occurrences in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

As a regular course in the field of religious studies, the class will pay particular attention to the influence of the war experience upon the nation's ideals and sense of purpose. We shall be analyzing religious attitudes and movements that have come to prominence since the war ended, particularly those which seem to have been influenced markedly by the experience and outcome of the war. Along the way, we shall attempt to come to terms with the present situation of the veterans of the war. On specific occasions we shall witness the testimonies of some of them.

Though no regular discussion groups are being scheduled as requirements for the class, discussion opportunities will be offered frequently, and will be announced in class.

The quarter grade for the class will be based on the student's performance on a mid-term exam and a final exam. An opportunity will be offered to write a term paper, or to conduct a term project, for which additional credit will be given. Students are encouraged to discuss their intended quarter's work with the instructor and/or teaching assistants.

Study questions for each of the required texts will be distributed separately in class. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves thoroughly with all of the required reading (as befits an upper-division course) as early in the quarter as possible.

Required texts for the course include: Stanley Karnow, Vietnam: A History (New York: Viking Press, 1983); John Wheeler, Touched With Fire: The Future of the Vietnam Generation (New York: Avon Books, 1984); Walter H. Capps, The Unfinished War: Vietnam and the American Conscience (Boston: Beacon Press, 1982); Philip Caputo, A Rumour of War (New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1977); Myra McPherson, Long Time Passing: Vietnam and the Haunted Generation (New York: Doubleday, 1984), and other items as announced in class. Numerous books, articles and treatises will be placed on reserve in the library. The class has also developed audio and video tape collections that will be made available, as announced in class.