

F A C T S H E E T

Book list - 1989 →
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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 being-realized homecoming, and the interdependence of these events with other movements, issues, and occurrences in the United States 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, with those who adopted conscientious-objector and/or protest stances during the war, with participants (from all walks of life) who experienced the reality of war first-hand and/or at close range, and with a variety of persons who have been part of the post-war reconstructive process. On specific occasions we shall witness the testimonies of some of them.

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

Required texts for the course include: George C. Herring, AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR: THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM 1950-1975; Al Santoli, TO BEAR ANY BURDEN; David Halberstam, HO; Walter H. Capps, THE UNFINISHED WAR; Philip Caputo, A RUMOR OF WAR; Myra McPherson, LONG TIME PASSING: VIETNAM AND THE HAUNTED GENERATION. Strongly recommended are Wendy Wilder Larsen and Tran Thi Nga SHALLOW GRAVES: TWO WOMEN AND VIETNAM; William P. Mahedy, OUT OF THE NIGHT: THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF VIETNAM VETS; Arthur Egendorf, HEALING FROM THE WAR: TRAUMA AND TRANSFORMATION AFTER VIETNAM; Jan C. Scruggs and Joel C. Swerdlow, TO HEAL A NATION; John Wheeler, TOUCHED WITH FIRE: THE FUTURE OF THE VIETNAM GENERATION; Gloria Emerson, WINNERS AND LOSEPS; Paul Fussell, THE GREAT WAR AND MODERN MEMORY; Shad Meshad, CAPTAIN FOR DARK MORNINGS, and other items suggested in class.

The quarter grade will be based on the student's performance on the final examination (at least a portion of which will be scored electronically) and on the evaluation of the term project. The term project may be a chronicle (a running account of lectures, proposals, readings, thoughts, reflections, et al.), a comprehensive bibliography, a term paper, an interview, a piece of creative reflection. See the instructors for details. The project must be written.

Walter Capps' office hours are on Tuesday afternoon, beginning at 1 o'clock. Dr. Deborah Sills is co-teacher. Teaching Assistants are Zeff Bjerken, Craig Hazen, Steve Herron, Jim Hurley, Kathleen Jenks, Lloyd Pflueger, and Tracy Pintchman. Class assistants are Jenny Hamren and Shelly Acord.

The field trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is being planned for the weekend of February 26, with the prime event being on February 28.

Book List.

- Herring -

- Capps

- Rehedy

- Bokhor Ann Maser -

- Halberstam

- Coputo

- Santoli.

60
269
25
935
860

2349