

Description of Course

This course is designed to trace and assess the impact of the Vietnam War on American thought and culture. This war, which began in 1964 and ended in 1975, has been described as the most divisive in American history, to be likened in its impact to the Civil War in the 19th century. The debate continues as to whether the war was proper, whether it should have been waged at all, and what benefits and/or adverse consequences it carried. Subsequent wars have been waged, as the nation's leaders have said, "to put the Vietnam syndrome behind us." Current political candidates continue to be judged on the basis of the stance they took during the war, whether they opposed it, sought refuge in conscientious objection, enlisted, or allowed themselves to be drafted, etc. In point of fact, the nation has not yet reached consensus on "the meaning" of the war. And as this discussion continues on, we have a class here at UCSB that has been monitoring the ongoing national response since 1979. Each year there is a new emphasis, but only in very few years has this emphasis been fully recognizable in advance. Part of the challenge is to discern this emphasis (or emphases) each year, whether it pertain to how women understand the war, how persons born in Vietnam and now living in the United States understand the war, or even to what new interpretive light is cast upon the war experience by the latest analyses or theoretical appraisals.

The class is designed around two Campbell-Hall sessions per week, during which time there will be lectures and presentations on the subject of the course. In addition to the formal lectures by the professor and, at times, by the teaching assistants, there will be guest presentations, not all of which will be announced in advance. The intention here is to bring as many perspectives as possible to the discussion, whether these perspectives represent the eye-witness accounts of persons who fought in Vietnam, the vantage point of persons who decided not to go, the attitude of military strategists, etc. All of this is designed to bring the subject into the classroom as realistically and vividly as possible.

Grades for the course will be based on performances on the mid-term exam and the final exam (which will cover the reading and lecture materials) together with a special term project. Details regarding the project will be distributed separately as will the schedule of reading assignments.

48
+ 12
60

~~47~~
- 47
77
47

6:20 - 24 - 48 - 10
20 + 4

Authorized statements

Story to help in all 7 new elements

TRH redeems us? - intellectual respectability

APP. - Herb Brock

[Religion Studies creates religion]

Tillich