

College Seminar 23101/06
Fall 2008

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Office Hours:
M, W 3:00-4:00
and by appt.

War

College Seminar

The College Seminar is a unique one-semester course experience shared by all sophomores majoring in the College of Arts and Letters. The course offers students an introduction to the diversity and distinctive focus of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame. Specific sections of the College Seminar vary in their topics and texts, but all feature an interdisciplinary approach, commitment to engaging important questions, employment of major works, and emphasis on the development of oral skills.

Attendance and Participation

Given the oral-intensive nature of the course, and given that the majority of the grade you will receive will reflect your ability to communicate your thoughts clearly and effectively, it is **imperative** that you attend every class meeting. While an excellent attendance record will be rewarded, any unexcused absences (without documentation from your coach, your band director, your doctor, etc.) will affect your grade negatively. This attendance policy includes days before and after holidays and vacations. You should inform me in advance of unavoidable absences. Although missing class is never recommended, departmental policy allows 3 absences without penalty (Keep them for emergencies only!) For every unexcused absence after the third your final grade will be lowered one step (e.g. A to A-, B+ to B, B- to C+).

Homework and Assignments

In order for the class discussions to be fruitful and well-grounded, we will be reading a substantial amount throughout the course of the semester. It is therefore **extremely important** that you come to class prepared: i.e. that you have read the **entire** assignment for class that day, if possible made notes or the like, and thought about the text before class. And given the pace of the semester, it is likewise **crucial** that you keep up with the reading; falling behind will only add to the reading burden and make it difficult, if not possible, to catch up.

In addition, there will be an **Oral Presentation** once a week by each participant of the class on the topic of that week or day. The precise nature of the topic of the presentation is to be determined in advance in consultation with me. The presentation can be given extemporaneously or

from a written text (former preferred), but should be no longer than 15-20 minutes in length. The presentation will be followed by a short discussion of it by the class.

There will also be a short paper and a written final exam.

Honor Code

Throughout all course activities, including written assignments, quizzes, and exams, the Honor Code is in effect: all of this work has to be your own and not anyone else's. To familiarize yourself with the Honor Code, please read the pertinent chapter in *Du Lac* (beginning on p. a-33): particularly section IV, entitled "Student Responsibilities under the Academic Code of Honor," points A through D; or visit http://www.nd.edu/~hnrcode/IV-Student_Resp.htm. If secondary sources are used for any assignments, these sources should be listed in a bibliography at the assignment's end, and any quoted material should be placed in quotation marks and clearly attributed in a footnote. Plagiarism (i.e., any written work presented as entirely your own and original to the particular assignment that is *not*, in fact, entirely your own and/or original to the particular assignment) is a serious matter. If you have questions about this policy and how it applies to your work for our course, and if you are in doubt about the legitimacy of your activities with respect to this course, please don't hesitate to ask me—before any problems can arise.

Required Texts

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*
Caesar, *The Gallic War*
Shakespeare, *Henry V*
Clausewitz, *On War*
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
T.E. Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*
W.G. Sebald, *On the Natural History of Destruction*
Thomas E. Ricks, *Fiasco. The American Military Adventure in Iraq*

There will also be a showing of films by Stanley Kubrick, *Full Metal Jacket*

Requirements and Evaluation:

Attendance, Class Participation	45 %
Oral Presentation	25 %
One Short Essay	10 %
Final Exam	20 %

Contacting and Meeting with Professor Norton:

During office hours, I will be in my office in O'Shaughnessy 318, ready to discuss course issues or anything else. If you can't make my office hours,

contact me after class or by e-mail; we can then either solve the issue right there or set up a time to meet. E-mail (Norton.15@nd.edu) is a good way to get in touch with me to ask specific questions.

Week One

Monday

Aug. 27

Introduction

Assignment:

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, pp. 3-68.

Week Two

Monday

Sept. 1

The Art of War?

Assignment:

Caesar, *The Gallic War*, Books 1 and 2

Wednesday

Sept. 3

Writing History as War

Assignment:

Caesar, *The Gallic War*, Books 4 and 6

Week Three

Monday

Sept. 8

Caesar, Britons and Germans

Assignment:

Shakespeare, *Henry V*, Act 1

Wednesday

Sept. 10

Shakespeare on War

Assignment:

Shakespeare, *Henry V*, Act 2

Week Four

Monday

Sept. 15

Henry V

Assignment:

Shakespeare, *Henry V*, Act 3

Wednesday

Sept. 17

Henry V

Assignment:

Shakespeare, *Henry V*, Act 4

Week Five

Monday

Sept. 22

Henry V

Assignment:

Shakespeare, *Henry V*, Act 5

Wednesday

Sept. 24

Henry V

Assignment:

Clausewitz, *On War*, Chapter One, pp. 83-142.

Week Six

Monday

Sept. 29

The Science of War

Assignment:

Clausewitz, *On War*, Chapter Two, pp. 145-204.

Wednesday

Oct. 1

The Theory of War

Assignment:

Clausewitz, *On War*, Chapter Three, pp. 207-271.

Week Seven

Monday

The Strategy of War

Oct. 6 Assignment: Clausewitz, *On War*, Book Eight, pp. 697-771.

Wednesday War Plans
Oct. 8 Assignment: Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, pp. 1-74.

Week Eight

Monday The War to End all Wars
Oct. 13 Assignment: Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, pp. 75-168.

Wednesday Trench Warfare
Oct. 15 Assignment: Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, pp. 168-end.

Mid-Term Break

Week Nine

Monday The End
Oct. 27 Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Introduction, pp. 23-63.

Wednesday Britain in Mesopotamia
Oct. 29 Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Books I & II, pp. 64-164.

Week Ten

Monday Lawrence in Arabia
Nov. 3 Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Book III, IV & V, pp. 165-381.

Wednesday **Class Cancelled**
Nov. 5 Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Book VI, pp. 382-453..

Week Eleven

Monday East meets West
Nov. 10 Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Book VII, pp. 454-505.

Wednesday Imperial Projects
Nov. 12 Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Books VIII & IX, pp. 506-579.

Week Twelve

Monday
Nov. 17 Disillusionment
Assignment: Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*,
Chapter X & Epilogue, pp.
580-662.

Wednesday Lessons
Nov. 19 Assignment: Sebald, *The Natural History of
Destruction*, pp. 1-104.

Week Thirteen

Monday
Nov. 24 The Air War
Assignment: Sebald, *The Natural History of
Destruction*, pp. 105-191.

Week Fourteen

Monday
Dec. 1 Depictions of War
Assignment: Ricks, *Fiasco*, pp. 3-111.

Wednesday America in Mesopotamia
Dec. 3 Assignment: Ricks, *Fiasco*, pp. 115-213.

Week Fifteen

Monday
Dec. 8 Insurgency
Assignment: Ricks, *Fiasco*, pp. 214-310.

Wednesday Quagmire?
Dec. 10 Assignment: Ricks, *Fiasco*, pp. 311-end.