

The Vietnam War in Film
Honors Colloquium: Special Topics, 01:090:224:H2
Instructor: Dean Nazario
Fall 2017

Meeting time: Tuesday double period 6:10-7:30pm, 7:40pm-9:00pm
Meeting place: Honors College, Room E-128

Purpose of Course:

This coming January 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the TET offensive in Vietnam War, when every major city and provincial capital in South Vietnam and U.S. military bases was attacked by either North Vietnamese Army Regulars or Viet Cong (National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) guerillas. Even the U.S. Embassy in Saigon was overrun by Viet Cong guerillas; these events mark a turning point on how the Vietnam War was seen in America.

Through screening films and select readings, our class will revisit this historical event and discuss the impact Vietnam War on American Society. We will also consider the question: Do films on the Vietnam war convey the reality of Vietnam War?

Selective Readings: To be assigned

Films:

Apocalypse Now, Directed by Francis Coppola
Full Metal Jacket, Directed by Kubrick
Platoon, Directed by Oliver Stone
Coming Home, Directed by Hal Ashby

Requirements: Attendance of all classes and participation in discussion, five 250 words response papers on readings and films.

Grading: Pass/no credit

Class Schedule:

September 12- Overview of course and introductions

Screening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1111111111> Vietnam War: Disaster at Dien Bien Phu

Reading assignment: <http://adst.org/2014/04/the-fall-of-dien-bien-phu-and-the-rise-of-u-s-involvement-in-vietnam/>

September 19- Screening of "Apocalypse Now " (1979), Directed by Francis Coppola

Discussion: What does film say about human beings in war? What does the film say about the Vietnam War in particular?

September 26- Screening of "Full Metal Jacket "(1987), Directed by Stanley Kubrick

Reading assignment: <http://www.ushistory.org/us/55c.asp>, TET Offensive

Discussion: What does the film say about the Vietnam War?

October 3- "Platoon" (1989), Directed by Oliver Stone

Discussion: What does the film say about American soldiers involvement in the Vietnam War?

October 10- "Coming Home" (1978), Directed by Hal Ashby

Discussion: What does the film say about American Public view of the Vietnam War?