EIU 4106G 001: War Stories

Melissa Caldwell
Eastern Illinois University

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Instructor: Dr. Caldwell
Office: CH 3050
Office Hours: MF 9:30-10am, 12-1pm, 2-3pm, and by appointment
Email: mcaldwell@eiu.edu

Required Texts
J.G. Ballard, *Empire of the Sun*
Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*
Tim O’Brien, *In the Lake in the Woods*
Julie Otsuka, *When the Emperor Was Divine*
Phil Klay, *Redeployment* (selections posted in D2L)
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
Art Spiegelman, *Maus*, volumes 1 and 2
*The White Donkey*, Maximillian Uriarte (selections posted in D2L)

Films (screened in class or made available via D2L)
*Come and See* (1985), dir. Elem Klimov
*Eye in the Sky* (2015), dir. Gavin Hood
*Krigen* (2015), dir. Tobias Lindholm
*Son of Saul* (2015), dir. Laszio Nemes

Course Description* and Learning Objectives
In this EIU senior seminar, we will examine the impact of some of the major wars and conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries by reading fiction that treats various aspects of war. In particular, we will seek to understand the all-pervasive impact of war on both individuals directly involved in fighting and conflict, as well as their society and families; and we will look at how the casualties and traumas of war occur both on and off the battlefield.

In this course, you will have the opportunity to develop your critical thinking, writing, reading, speaking and listening skills—all of which, I might add, will be crucial to you as you enter the job market. Specifically, in this course, we will do the following:

- Think about the effects of warfare in various times and places, noting some of the ways in which the institution of armed combat has shaped history, politics, culture, and ethics.
- Analyze numerous texts and films in light of their participation in these very broad cultural and historical developments.
- Reflect on the instinctual, cultural, and ideological bases of key ideas (e.g., *courage*, *honor*, *patriotism*, *duty*), noting how their meaning has changed to reflect changes in society and in warfare.
• Reflect on the nature of violence and aggression.
• Observe the changing nature of the social contract that has obliged soldiers to place themselves in harm’s way on behalf of tribe, city, country, or nation.
• Consider the impact of combat on gender roles and definitions.

Course Expectations

I. Success in this Course
My words of advice: in order to pass this course, you must at least do the following:

1.) attend and participate in class discussion,
2.) come prepared to class having done the reading assignment,
3.) bring your book to class and take notes,
4.) complete all required assignments on time.

The material on exams will be taken from class lectures and discussions; therefore, it is to your advantage to take notes every day in class (this includes on days when we are screening and/or discussing a film).

II. Attendance and Class Participation
My attendance policy is simple: I expect you to attend every class. By attend, I mean not merely showing up as a warm body, but being intellectually present in the class. Bring your book; take notes; come with something to say (a statement or a question is equally welcome) and/or be prepared to respond thoughtfully to the matters that we discuss in class. After your 4th absence, I will lower your final grade by 1/3 a letter grade for each subsequent absence. If there is a reason why you must miss class for an extended period of time, you should consult with me early about your absences. I reserve the right to count you absent for behavior inappropriate and unbecoming a college classroom including, but not limited to, texting, chatting, or any irrelevant use of technology in class, reading materials irrelevant to class, repeated tardiness, sleeping, making disrespectful or belittling comments directed to anyone in the classroom environment, or any other behavior that is disrespectful to myself and/or your peers.

If you miss class on the day of the midterm or final exam, you will not be permitted to make up the exam unless you can document an excused absence.

III. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). The English Department’s policy on plagiarism states the following:

“Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including
immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards.”

To put this another way: plagiarism absolutely will not be tolerated in this class regardless of whether it is intentional or unintentional, or whether occurs in written, oral or electronic work (e.g., a PowerPoint). Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism at any point in the semester, it is your responsibility to ask me about it before you turn in an assignment.

IV. Grade Distribution and Scale
Unless otherwise stipulated during class, assignments will be turned in via D2L Dropbox. Grades and feedback on written assignments will also be posted on D2L. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades and assignments; if you have a question about your grade at any point in the semester or if you have a question about my comments on any of your written assignments, do not hesitate to come talk to me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Final Grading Scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Quizzes (as needed)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90-100 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum Posts (4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80-89 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentary Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70-79 C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>60-69 D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Below 60 F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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V. Brief Overview of Assignments

1. Discussion Forum Assignment (20% total, 5% each)
Over the semester, you will have the opportunity to write many discussion forum posts throughout the course of the semester; however, you are only required to write four. Each response should be 750-1000 words. You may choose which ones you want to write, but I urge you to not do them all at the end of the semester; at least 2 of the 4 must be on a text rather than a film. This assignment is an exercise in exploratory writing and close analysis. For each response paper, you must choose a specific, short passage/scene in the reading/viewing assignment. You must use specific textual evidence or evidence from a film in order to successfully complete this assignment. In other words, you should employ direct quotations and other forms of close reading. You should use your post to discuss the significance of that scene and to explore a larger theme (or themes) in the text that you find meaningful. Don’t feel as though your post has to provide all the “answers.” Use this response to start exploring and thinking more deeply about a key issue in the film/text. While the response post need not be as polished as a formal essay, it should demonstrate that you have read and thought about the text and it should explore one main point using evidence (i.e. do not ramble aimlessly and make sure to use quotations or paraphrases of the text/film in your discussion). I do expect your
responses to obey the basic rules of grammar and mechanics of standard written English. Responses are due by 9pm.

2. Documentary Paper (10% total)
You will write a 4-6 page paper that constructs a context around one of the texts we have read by using photographic and/or written documentary evidence. More specific instructions will be forthcoming.

3. Class Participation and Quizzes (20%)
Showing up to class does not fulfill the requirement for your participation grade. If you have perfect attendance but are not engaged in class, then you are likely to earn a C-level grade or lower for your participation. There will be frequent reading quizzes if it appears to me that texts are not being read carefully or at all. Believe me when I say that you do not want to give me a reason to give you quizzes.

4. Film Review (10%)
You will write a 3-4 page review of a war film from a list I provide to you. More specific instructions will be forthcoming.

5. Final Project (25%)
This is your final paper for the class, which you will present to the class during the last week of the semester. For this paper, I would like you to think about some aspect of war and how it relates to your major. Start thinking about this early, and please do come see me if you want help brainstorming. I will ask for a precis (that is, a description of your project) early in the semester.

6. Exam (20%)
Our final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm.

7. Late work, Make-up Work, and Extra Credit
You may choose to turn in any 1 assignment up to 24 hours late with no penalty. Otherwise, all work will be penalized a full letter grade for each day it is turned in late. If you get to the end of the semester and realize that you have run out of time to complete your response papers, you may turn in two response papers in place of one to make up credit. If you are unhappy with a grade you have received on an early response paper, you may turn in an “extra” response paper. If you receive a higher grade on this additional response paper, it can replace a lower grade you have received on an earlier paper. In other words, if you have received a 70, 80, 60, and 85 on your first 4 papers and you get an 82 on a 5th “extra” paper, the 82 will replace the 60 you received earlier.

VI. Office Hours
I will hold five regularly scheduled office hours every week. If you are not available to meet during my office hours, please email me or come talk to me after class to schedule an appointment. Use my office hours as you see fit. I am happy to talk to you about any concerns
you are having about the course, your grade, the reading assignment, etc. I am also more than happy to talk to you about paper assignments at any step in the paper-writing process—from I-have-no-idea-what-to-say to the revision process.

VII. Information for Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583.

VIII. Other Resources
The Student Success Center
Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

The Writing Center
You are always welcome to meet with me during office hours to discuss any writing issues. However, I also encourage you to use EIU’s Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929.

IX. EIU Writing Portfolio
If you wish to do so, you may submit any essay longer than 750 words to your Electronic Writing Portfolio by the end of the semester. Please see me for advice on revising your essay before submitting it.

***Your enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement with these policies.***
Course Schedule*
The following is a tentative schedule; changes may be made to the schedule at any time and will be announced via email and/or in class as needed.

Mon., 8/21  Introduction: War and the Representation of War
Wed., 8/23  Stephen Crane, The Red Badge of Courage, chapters 1-5 (D2L)

Mon., 8/28  O'Brien, The Things They Carried, p. 41-92
Wed., 8/30  O'Brien, The Things They Carried, p. 93-150

Mon., 9/4  LABOR DAY—No Class
Fri., 9/8  O'Brien, In the Lake in the Woods, p. 59-101; precis for final project due

Mon., 9/11  O'Brien, In the Lake in the Woods, p. 147-216; Documentary on My Lai
Wed., 9/13  O'Brien, In the Lake in the Woods, p. 102-146; Documentary on My Lai
Fri. 9/15  O'Brien, In the Lake in the Woods, p. 217-303

Mon., 9/18  Krigen
Wed., 9/20  Film discussion
Fri., 9/22  Ballard, Empire of the Sun, ch. 1-7

Mon., 9/25  Ballard, Empire of the Sun, ch. 8-19; Film review due
Wed., 9/27  Ballard, Empire of the Sun, ch. 20-27
Fri., 9/29  Ballard, Empire of the Sun, ch. 28-31

Mon., 10/2  Ballard, Empire of the Sun, ch. 32-37
Wed., 10/4  Ballard, Empire of the Sun, ch. 38-42
Fri., 10/6  Silko, Ceremony, p. 1-45

Mon., 10/9  Silko, Ceremony, p. 45-116
Wed., 10/11  Silko, Ceremony, p. 116-159
Fri., 10/13  FALL BREAK—No Class

Mon., 10/16  Silko, Ceremony, p. 159-233
Wed., 10/18  Silko, Ceremony, p. 233-262
Fri., 10/20  Otsuka, When the Emperor Was Divine, p. 1-48

Mon., 10/23  Otsuka, When the Emperor Was Divine, p. 49-139
Wed., 10/25  Otsuka, When the Emperor Was Divine, p. 140-144
Fri., 10/27  Conferences
Mon., 10/30  Reading Comics; Spiegelman, *Maus*, volume 1, chapter 1
Wed., 11/1  Spiegelman, *Maus*, vol. 1, ch. 2-3
Fri., 11/3  Spiegelman, *Maus*, vol. 1, ch- 4-end

Wed., 11/8  Spiegelman, *Maus*, vol. 2, ch. 3-end
Fri., 11/10  *Son of Saul*

Mon., 11/13  Film discussion; **Documentary paper due**
Wed., 11/15  Selection from *The White Donkey* (D2L)
Fri., 11/17  Selection from *The White Donkey* (D2L)

Mon., 11/20 – 11/24 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Mon., 11/27  Selection from *Redeployment* (D2L)
Wed., 11/29  *Eye in the Sky*, selection from *Drone* (D2L)
Fri., 12/1  Film discussion

Mon., 12/4  Presentations; **Final project paper due**
Wed., 12/6  Presentations
Fri., 12/8  Presentations

**Our final exam is on Tuesday, December 12 from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm.**

*EIU 4106G - War Stories. (3-0-3) S. A study of selected war literature in light of the history of armaments and warfare. An inquiry into the roots of war and the ways armed combat has shaped politics, culture, and ethics will provide the context for close study and appreciation of works by Homer, Shakespeare, Remarque, Hemingway, and others. Majors in English are excluded. WI Credits: 3 Prerequisites & Notes Completion of 75 semester hours.*