ENG 4850-115: Literature of Vietnam

Martone
Eastern Illinois University

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**Description.**

Although Vietnam has figured importantly in our history and in the American imagination for the past 40 years, we have rarely seen that country through the eyes of its own writers. In this course we will listen carefully to voices from that world. Our readings will begin with traditional works, such as early folk-poetry and the Vietnamese national poem *The Tale of Kieu*. We'll then move on to more recent writing: Bao Ninh's *The Sorrow of War*, A selection of Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh's writings, short stories such as "The General Retires," and Vietnamese-American Lee Hayslip's, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*.

**Texts.**

- Wing Tsit Chan, *A Sourcebook of Chinese Philosophy*.
- Duong Thu Huong, *Paradise of the Blind*.
- Thich Nhat Hanh, *A Taste of Earth*.
- Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Miracle of Mindfulness*.
- Sanh Thong Huynh, *An Anthology of Vietnamese Poetry*.
- Le Li Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*.
- Nguyen Du, *The Tale of Kieu*.
- Bao Ninh, *The Sorrow of War*.

**Requirements.**

- Regular attendance. Since we meet only once a week, I will expect you to see me individually (or correspond via e-mail), should you need to miss a class. I will lower your grade by a letter should you have more than one absence.

- Weekly 1-2 page, typed responses to our reading. (20% of grade.)

- 3-5 page paper/report on an assigned topic. (20% of grade.)

- Midterm and Final examinations. (40% of grade.)

- 7-10 page Final Essay. (20% of grade)

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Schedule.**


*February 2.* Conclude discussion of backgrounds. Folk and popular culture. Thich Nhat Hanh's *A Taste of Earth*.

*February 9.* *The Tale of Kieu*. 

**Martone,**

**English 4850: Literature of Vietnam.**

Phone: 581-6982.

E-mail:


March 1. Colonialism. Reports on and responses to Buttinger and Karnow (Handouts and reserve reading.)

March 8. Midterm examination.

March 15. Spring Recess.


March 29. Duong, *Paradise of the Blind*.

April 5. The Viet Kieu (overseas Vietnamese). Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*.

April 12. Finish Hayslip. View Oliver Stone’s *Heaven and Earth*.

April 19. Vietnamese Film. *Three Seasons*.

April 26. Summing up. Present/discuss final papers.