ENGLISH 204-950 (online)

English 204, Literary Perspectives on the Modern World, is a course in the SIUC Core Curriculum. It may be used as credit toward the Humanities in the Disciplinary Studies division. This particular version of the course, “Literature of War,” aims to introduce students to the literature associated with the major wars of the twentieth century: World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. There is one unit at the end of the course devoted to the Iraq War. The course offers the student British, American, and even German writings on the wars as well as the genres of poetry, fiction, drama, memoir, and film. It also introduces the student to important literary terminology and the historical context.

The goals of “Literature of War” include:
1. To gain an appreciation of the wide range of writings about the major wars of the Twentieth century;
2. To gain a basic understanding of the historical context of the major wars of the Twentieth century;
3. To develop an understanding of the genres of poetry, fiction, drama, memoir and film;
4. To develop an understand of major literary terminology;
5. To develop skill at interpreting literature.

Texts:
Any edition of the following texts is allowed. However, the texts listed below correspond to the citations given in the units.


There are five films in the course you will be asked to watch. You should be able to find them at a library, video store, or on-line.
*All Quiet on the Western Front*  
*Das Boot*  
*Born on the Fourth of July*  
*The Hurt Locker*  
*The Sands of Iwo Jima*

Course Requirements
You are required to read the assigned material. There are seven written assignments, one of which is given at the end of approximately every other unit. You will submit these on-line. They are worth 20% of the final grade.

There are four tests, one after each war. After Unit 4, you will take the test on World War I. After Unit 9, you will take the test on World War II. After Unit 13, you will take the test on the
Vietnam War. After Unit 14, you will take the test on the Iraq War, which includes an essay question that covers the course. Each test is worth 20% of the final grade.