FIRST YEAR SEMINAR: WAR REPORTING, FALL 2017
Monday, Wednesday 3:00-4:15 p.m.
Room: Weinstein 304
Robert Hodierne, instructor
Office: 424 Weinstein Hall
Office hours: 10:30-noon Monday and Wednesday and by appointment
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Reading:


2. “Media Credibility in War: The Phenomenon of Embedded Reporters” by Robert Hodierne, a paper at the 2005 conference “Arab Media in the Information Age” sponsored by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. You can read the paper at: http://hodierne.com/cred.htm

3. We will read war coverage as it appeared in newspapers during the various wars. The library has an excellent electronic collection of papers dating back to the Revolutionary War.

In this course we will trace media coverage of American wars from the Revolution through the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. By the end of this course you will have an understanding of the historically antagonistic relationship between those who wage war and those who report on them. You will have a sense of the personalities of war reporters. Finally, you will have an understanding of the impact news coverage has had on the decisions to go to war and on how the wars were conducted.

In the first week of this course you will meet our librarian who will help you find the newspaper articles you will need.

We will put special emphasis on these wars and it would be wise to refresh your knowledge of them:

1. Revolutionary War -- deeply
2. Mexican-American War -- briefly
3. Civil War -- deeply
4. Spanish-American War -- briefly
5. World War I -- briefly
6. World War II -- deeply
7. Korean War -- briefly
8. Vietnam War -- deeply
9. Current wars – deeply

(A note of “briefly” means we will spend no more than two class sessions dealing with those wars. “Deeply” means three or more class sessions. Refreshing your knowledge can easily be done on Wikipedia.)

REPORTER BIOS

Each of you will be assigned one American war correspondent. That reporter or photographer will be the subject of your final paper and presentation in the class. The paper should be in the range of 1,500-2,000 words. That paper and presentation will count for 25 percent of your final grade. There is no final exam in this class. You will be assigned your correspondent the second class of the semester.

The War Reporter paper will be due Monday, Dec. 4.

Here is a list of the correspondents:

1. George Wilkins Kendall, among the first truly professional war correspondents. He covered the Mexican-American war for the New Orleans Picayune.

2. Jane McManus Storm Cazneau, covered the Mexican-American war and is most likely the first female war correspondent. Her byline was frequently just Jane Storm. How great is that?

3. William Howard Russell, a Brit but important nonetheless. Knightley, in his book that is required for this course, mistakenly calls Russell the first professional war correspondent. He wasn’t but he was hugely important. His coverage of the American Civil War was especially noteworthy.

4. Whitelaw Reid, a reporter during the Civil War

5. Felix Gregory de Fontaine, who wrote for the Charleston Courier during the Civil War.

6. Peter W. Alexander, of the Savannah Republican as well as the Richmond Dispatch. He covered the Civil War.

7. Richard Harding Davis, an accomplished author whose coverage of the Spanish-American War is credited by many for elevating Teddy Roosevelt to national prominence.

8. Stephen Crane, the author of the Civil War novel “Red Badge of Courage,” who went on to cover the fighting in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

10. Ernie Pyle, the most beloved of the World War II reporters.

11. Robert Capa, World War II’s most famous war photographer.

12. Margaret Bourke-White, a photographer who covered World War II.


14. Peter Arnett, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his Vietnam War coverage.

15. Dickey Chapelle, covered World War II and Vietnam, where she was killed by a land mine. She is often described as the first American female war correspondent to be killed in action.


**REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

The first writing assignment will deal with the American Revolutionary War. Each of you will be assigned one of the battles listed below. For your assignment, you will find contemporary newspaper coverage of those battles. You will write a paper and make a presentation in class. The paper should be in the range of 1,000 words plus any attachments of newspaper articles you found. Your class presentation should be no more than 10 minutes including time for discussion. **Prior to your presentation you must make an appointment at the speech center to get coaching. Failure to do so will result in an F on the assignment.**

Whatever else you say about the coverage of the battle please include:

---A brief summary of the battle  
---Who did the reporting?  
---In light of what we know today about the battles, how accurate was the coverage?  
---How much time lapsed from the battle to the appearance of coverage?  
---Were the battle stories given big play in the papers?

Here are the battles. You will be assigned a battle during the second class. Assignment will be by random drawing.

1. April 19, 1775 -- Battles of Lexington and Concord  
2. May 10, 1775 -- Battle of Ticonderoga  
4. June 16, 1775 – Battle of Bunker Hill  
5. Dec. 31, 1775 – The Battle of Quebec  
6. Aug. 27, 1776 -- Battle of Long island (Brooklyn Heights)  
7. Dec. 26, 1776 -- Battle of Trenton  
8. Aug. 6, 1777 – The Battle of Oriskany
9. Aug. 16, 1777 – The Battle of Bennington
11. Sept. 11, 1777 -- Battle of Brandywine
12. Oct. 4, 17771 – Battle of Germantown
13. June 28, 1778 -- Battle of Monmouth, N.J.
14. Dec. 29, 1778 – Capture of Savannah
16. Oct. 9, 1781 -- Battle of Yorktown

A good summary of those battles can be found at
www.theamericanrevolution.org/battles.aspx

The Revolutionary War papers will be due at the start of class Monday, Sept. 18, and presentations will begin that day.

CIVIL WAR

As we did for the Revolutionary War, each of you will be assigned a major Civil War battle. You will write a paper and make a presentation in class. The paper should be in the range of 1,000 words plus any attachments of newspaper articles you found. Your class presentation should be no more than 10 minutes including time for discussion.

Whatever else you say about the coverage of the battle please include:

-- A brief summary of the war
-- Who did the reporting?
-- In light of what we know today about the battles, how accurate was the coverage?
-- How much time lapsed from the battle to the appearance of coverage?
-- Were the battles stories given big play in the papers?

Here are the battles. You will be assigned a battle during the second class. Assignment will be by random drawing.

1. April 12, 1861 -- Battle of Fort Sumter
2. July 21, 1861 – First Bull Run
3. Feb. 13-16, 1862 – Battle of Fort Donelson
4. March 8-9 – Battle of Hampton Road (Monitor vs. Merrimack)
5. April 6-7, 1862 – Battle of Shiloh
6. Aug. 29-30, 1862 – Second Bull Run
7. Sept. 17, 1862 – Battle of Antietam
8. Dec. 31, 1862 – Battles of Stones River
9. May 1-4, 1863 – Battle of Chancellorsville
10. July 1-4, 1863 – Battle of Gettysburg
11. July 4, 1863 – Fall of Vicksburg
12. Sept. 19-20, 1863 – Battle of Chickamauga
13. April 2, 1864 – Third Battle of Petersburg
14. May 5-7, 1864 – Battle of the Wilderness
15. May 8, 1864 – Battle of Spotsylvania Court House
16. April 9, 1864 – Lee surrenders

The Civil War paper will be due at the start of class Monday, Oct. 2, and presentations will begin that day.

WORLD WAR II

You will write a paper and make a presentation in class. The paper should be in the range of 1,000 words plus any attachments of newspaper articles you found. Your class presentation should be no more than 10 minutes including time for discussion.

This paper and presentation will be different than earlier assignments. Because many of these battles were fought over many days, sometimes months, writing about the overall coverage would be too difficult. Instead, I want you to find one distinguished piece of contemporary writing from those battles. Your paper should tell me why you picked that piece of writing.

Here are the battles. You will be assigned a battle during the second class. Assignment will be by random drawing.

1. Midway
2. Anzio
3. Kasserene Pass
4. Tarawa
5. Monte Cassino
6. Operation Market Garden
7. Iwo Jima
8. Wau, New Guinea
9. Metz
10. Guadalcanal
11. Battle of the Bulge
12. Invasion of Sicily
13. Okinawa
14. Pearl Harbor
15. Bataan/Corregidor
16. Operation Torch

The World War II papers will be due at the start of class Monday, Oct. 30, and presentations will begin that day.

VIETNAM

Like the World War II assignment, you are to find one distinguished piece of writing about your assigned battle or event. Or, alternatively, a photograph or series of photographs. Your paper will explain why you picked that story or photo. Please be sure to include in your paper and especially your presentation the historical context of your particular battle.

1. Dien Bien Phu, 1954
3. Gulf of Tonkin Incident (the writing about this likely will not have been done from Vietnam)
4. Ia Drang Valley, 1965
5. Operation Starlite, 1965
6. Plei Mei, 1965
7. Rolling Thunder, 1965-68
8. Dak To, 1967
10. Siege of Khe Son, 1968
11. My Lai Massacre, 1968 (but the writing about it will come several years later)
13. Hamburger Hill, 1969
15. Fall of Saigon, 1975
16. Operation Ranch Hand (Agent Orange)

The Vietnam papers are due at the start of class Monday, Nov. 13, and presentations will begin that day.

Paper preparation and delivery:

You will submit your papers to me via e-mail. Use your university e-mail account otherwise I have to try to figure out who laughingdog@yahoo.com is. The subject line of the e-mail will be announced in class. The Word file name will also be announced in class. Please adhere closely to those guidelines. It makes it easier for me to find your papers. Each paper should be in a font of at least 12 points. The papers should be doubled spaced. Paragraphs should be indented. You will use the Chicago Manual of Style for footnotes. Here is a link: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html Your papers will be marked up using Word’s reviewing tool. If you don’t know how to use that, learn.

Grading:

Papers will be graded on whether they demonstrate a command of writing mechanics, articulate a clear focus and purpose, exhibit awareness of audience, demonstrate an understanding of appropriate organization and whether they analyze evidence from sources, experience and empirical research to provide proper support to ideas.

The oral presentations will be graded on whether they clearly and logically organize thoughts to make them easily understood, exhibit awareness of and attention to the audience, demonstrate appropriate word choice and rhetorical strategies. In addition, you will be graded on how creative and engaging the presentation is. The presentation can incorporate any media you wish.

Those grading criteria were taken from the university’s Assessment Plan for First Year Seminars.

Workload:
To be successful in this course, you should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week.

Attendance:

Missing a class is not an excuse for failing to do the work assigned in that class. Ask your classmates or ask me what the assignment was. If there’s a good reason you missed the class, talk to me. But it had better be good. After one unexcused absence your final grade will be lowered a half a grade for each additional missed class. If there is quiz during an unexcused absence you will not be allowed to make up that quiz.

Deadlines:

When a paper is due on a particular date it is due at the start of the class period that day. No late assignments will be accepted. Period. If it’s late, it gets an F.

Punctuality:

You are expected to be in class on time. Each class will start promptly. If you cannot get to class on time, please drop the course now. The door will be closed at the start of class and you will not be allowed to enter. That will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Cell Phones and computers:

No cell phone use, either voice or text, is allowed during class. If your cell phone goes off, you will be asked to leave the class and not allowed to return during that period. That will count as an unexcused absence. Unless told specifically otherwise, no computers will be turned on during class.

Reaching me:

I will be in my office from 10:30-noon Monday and Wednesday. Feel free to call me at home at 804-484-4759 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you need me in person at other times that can be arranged by appointment. You may e-mail me at rhodiern@richmond.edu.

A special note about e-mails to me: Treat them like the business communication they are. Begin with a conventional salutation (Dear. Prof. Hodierne) and end with a polite closing (Sincerely, Jane Doe). Write in complete sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation. I don’t think emoticons are cute. Finally, I don’t respond to text messages, Facebook postings or Tweets.

Plagiarism:

The university honor code defines plagiarism this way: “Plagiarism occurs when a student, with intent to deceive, presents any information, ideas or phrasing of another as if they were her own.” Don't appropriate the work of others and pretend it's yours. Err on the side of disclosure. Even if you have appropriated an idea or concept from another without actually stealing that person's words verbatim, say where the idea came from.
During the first two weeks of class, you are required to complete a tutorial that highlights the university’s expectations for academic integrity and provides information on the importance of assuming responsibility for using information ethically. The tutorial can be accessed at: library.richmond.edu/services/students/fys/.

If I catch you plagiarizing, you will fail this course.