UO Psychology 607 Graduate Seminar

Spring 2010

Trauma of War

Instructors: Holly Arrow, Pamela Birrell, & Jennifer Freyd

CRN: 35869
Grading option: Optional
Credits: 2-4
Time: Tuesdays 1-2:50 PM in 143 Straub Hall

Application Form: Instructors' consent is required. Applications will be considered as long as there is space available.

Course Home Page http://dynamic.uoregon.edu/~jjf/courses/psy607-spr10/

Course Materials for Registered Students Located at http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/

Clinical Elective: This seminar can be used as a clinical elective for grad students in UO Clinical Psychology program.

Overview: Our understanding of the trauma of war has undergone enormous change over the last century. In this seminar we will read current and historical reports and analyses of war trauma, asking not only how war impacts military personnel, civilians, and society, but also how the societal and historical context molds our approach to the questions and issues. We will consider a variety of perspectives including first hand reports and conceptual and empirical analyses of the impact of war. Topics include evolutionary perspectives on war, psychiatric perspectives, military sexual trauma, children and war, genocide, the current wars, and the Vietnam war.

Required book for the course:


Additional readings:

See weekly reading assignments.

Course Work: Students will be expected to attend all class meetings, do all assigned readings, and to participate actively in seminar discussion. In addition each participant will lead a class discussion and, in advance of the class meeting, post on Blackboard a set of discussion questions by the Friday at noon before the Wednesday class. Once the questions are posted the student will send an email to the class announcing the availability of the questions. By the Friday at noon
following the class, the student(s) leading discussion will post on Blackboard a document including the discussion questions, any other presentation material, and capturing important discussion points from class.

**Topics & Readings by Week**

( = readings from required book)

**Week 1, March 30: Current War**

**Film:** *Hidden Wounds*

**Discussion Leaders:** Holly Arrow, Jennifer Freyd & Pam Birrell

**Readings:**


**Week 2, April 6: Historical Perspectives**

**Guest Presentation:** Debby Phillips of the [Eugene VA](https://www.va.gov/eugene/)

**Discussion Leader:** Robyn Gobin

**Readings:**


**Week 3, April 13: PTSD**

**Discussion Leaders:** Jessica Murakami and Brian Jacoby

**Readings:**

**Week 4, April 20: Vietnam War & Betrayal**

**Guest Presentation: Nguyet Thi Minh Nguyen on war in Viet Nam**

**Discussion Leader: Anna Bell**

**Readings:**

- Chapter 1 (pages 1-21) and Conclusion (pages 196-209) from Jonathan Shay (1994) *Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character*.

**Week 5, April 27: Military Sexual Trauma**

**Discussion Leader: Melissa Platt**

**Readings:**

• Bowden, L, & Cain, S. (2008) *Powder: Writing by women in the ranks, from Vietnam to Iraq.* “Controller,” by Christy L. Clothier; “Every Night is Footsteps” & “To the Survivors,” by Elizabeth Keogh McDonald; “Coming to the End of the VA Road” & “Memorial Day Pow Wow” by Dr. Donna Dean; brief bios of the authors.


**Week 6, May 4: Rape in War**

**Film:** *The greatest silence: rape in the Congo*

**Discussion Leader:** Annmarie Hulette

**Readings:**


**Week 7, May 11: Genocide**

**Guest Presentation:** Paul Slovic on the topic of genocide and psychic numbing

**Discussion Leader:** Laura Kaehler

**Readings:**


**Week 8, May 18: Children and War**

**Guest Presentation:** Ariel Lissman on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

**Film:** *A Children's Century of War*
Discussion Leader: Christina Martin

Readings:


Week 9, May 25: Torture and the Role of Psychologists

Discussion Leaders: Andrea Wolfe and Cameo Konfrst

Readings:


Week 10, June 1: Healing & Summing Up

Discussion Leaders: Erin Darlington and Aliya Gamez

Readings: