



EWRT 2, Sec 73Z (De Anza), CRN 36726: *Critical Thinking* about Viet Nam and its Culture

as seen through the lens of three women: (1) a young Vietnamese woman who was refugeeed with her parrot, (2) a mythological woman who is the central figure in Vietnamese lore, and (3) a real doctor, killed in combat, who idolizes the fictional woman, and one man, Bao Ninh, an NVA soldier for seven years whose fictional memoir was banned in his home country.

DEDICATION: This fall in honor of the late SP5 Paul DeCillis, 4th Inf Div soldier, teacher, and donor with Paula of the DeCillis Viet Nam Conflict Collection in our Library. Died of Agent Orange-presumptive cancer from Viet Nam. Peace, our friend. And thanks also to the late SGT Thomas Binion who died saving my life on the field of battle, 1966. Thanks always to the late Joe Galloway and the late Mike Kelley. Joe Galloway was a dear friend, America's foremost

War Correspondent for 40 years, and he wrote the optional text WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG.

Contact Info:

JOHN K. SWENSSON
Emeritus Professor of English, De Anza College
Forum 6A (De Anza)
408-590-4430 (My cell--if you text, pls include your name)
swenssonjohn@gmail.com

Location And Time

This is an asynchronous class. The instructor reserves the right to vary the schedule as needed for pedagogical purposes. Office Hour will normally be 0900-1000 in Forum 6A and on ZOOM 4085903473 on Tuesdays, and by appointment. I live near the school so can come in any time convenient for you. We will have one optional, extra credit field trip to the Viet Nam Museum in Kelley Park in San Jose. All writing assignments will be submitted through CANVAS.

Philosophy

Students learn best when they teach. You did not pay tuition for me to get smart. So I encourage collaboration throughout and **require** peer editing BY AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE CLASS (See Unit 9 of the Writing Guide for some suggestions of how to easily peer edit using ALL CAPS.) Reach out to your classmates through the Bio Board, and make use of the Online Tutoring through NET Tutor which is a part of Canvas (link in the left navigation). The Writing Center on campus (AT 309) will be open from week two to week eleven. I give credit to folks who use these facilities--and work with each other. And be tough on one another. If someone writes a weak draft, say so, and suggest fixes; take some risks. You will learn more and have some fun in the process. I also encourage participation in Cross Cultural Partners, CCP, and , if you have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, I encourage you to join PTK.

Course Text(s)--Note: Save money in the De Anza Bookstore as my text is priced less than Amazon and they have used copies of the other books.

- Swensson, John K. *ENGLISH FOR ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING, 2nd Edition.*; Bookstore carries which will save you money--or order direct on Kindle or on paper from Amazon.com
- Du, Nguyen. **THE TALE OF KIEU**, trans. Huynh Sanh Thong. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987.
- Tram, Dr. Dang Thuy, **LAST NIGHT I DREAMED OF PEACE**. Trans. Andrew X. Pham. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2008. (Note: These are the diaries of Dr. T, and also make use of the PPTs in the Modules)

- Ninh, Bao..**THE SORROW OF WAR: A NOVEL OF NORTH VIET NAM**. trans. Phan Thanh Hao. New York: Riverhead Books, 1996.
- Optional Text for Bao Ninh: Moore, Harold G. LTG and Joseph L. Galloway. **WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG**. Any edition. Originally published 1992
- Note: GREAT Students may read Bao AND Galloway for Extra Credit. It is YOUR education; pls do not be held back by my low standards :-)
- and fair use Internet material.

Navigating This Course

This course is organized around twelve modules, one for each week of the course. Click on "Modules" in the list the immediate left. All relevant files and assignments and supporting materials including a lot of PPTs are within the modules.

Winter 2023 Student Learning Outcomes

- To learn to write effectively, well-organized argumentative themes, a short research-type paper, and a variety of paragraph forms.
- To learn and practice a variety of Critical Thinking strategies, using Vietnamese Culture as a subject matter.
- To learn and appreciate Logic and how we use it in critical thought: **Induction, Deduction, and Fallacies**
- To examine the relationship between the Vietnamese culture and the Vietnamese experience in the early 1960s, and American culture and the American experience.
- To critically examine a work of fiction, the classic Vietnamese folk tale, **THE TALE OF KIEU**--see <http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/swensson/kieu.html>
- [Links to an external site.](#)
- To critically examine a wonderful memoir of a Vietnamese soldier, Bao Ninh, **THE SORROW OF WAR**. My students met with Bao in Hanoi. in 2018.
- See also the Course Research Page which contains much material about KIEU including sample themes. It is at:
- [Links to an external site.](http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/swenssonjohn/)<http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/swenssonjohn/>
- [Links to an external site.](#) [Links to an external site.](#) and the [Thomas Pilsch Research page](#) [Links to an external site.](#) at <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>
- [Links to an external site.](#)