

# Homepage



## **EWRT 2, Sec 57Z (De Anza), CRN 43682: *Critical Thinking* about Viet Nam and its Culture. Spring 2023**

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. (Or you may substitute Joe Galloway for Bao Ninh)

**DEDICATION:** This spring in honor of the late Joe Galloway, a dear friend, America's foremost War Correspondent for 40 years. He also wrote the course text *WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG* which became the Mel Gibson movie *WE WERE SOLDIERS*. Joe came to this class on three occasions, one of which is memorialized on YOUTUBE. Also in memory of the late SP5 Paul DeCillis, 4th Inf Div soldier, teacher, and donor with Paula of the DeCillis Viet Nam Conflict Collection, 2,300 books on Viet Nam in our Library. Died of Agent Orange-presumptive cancer from Viet Nam. Peace, our friend. And thanks also to the late SSGT Thomas Binion who died saving my life on the field of battle, 1966.

**Contact Info:**

JOHN K. SWENSSON

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### Location And Time

This is an asynchronous class. The instructor reserves the right to vary the schedule as needed for pedagogical purposes. Office Hour and weekly Lecturette will normally be 0900-1000 on ZOOM 4085903473 on Tuesdays, and by appointment. I live near the school so can come in to my office in Forum 6A 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. You will need MS Word software available for free through your portal (Office 365).

### 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)—

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. Do not buy the first edition.

- 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. Tram. )
- Ninh, Bao..**THE SORROW OF WAR: A NOVEL OF NORTH VIET NAM**. trans. Phan Thanh Hao. New York: Riverhead Books, 1996. OR
- and fair use Internet material, including "The Prologue" to **WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG** which we will all study.

### 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.**

### **Spring 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>
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- [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. Or Joe Galloway's **WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG**. See Joe Galloway in our class reading "The Prologue" at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeFlv6PYLNM&t=255s>
  - [Links to an external site.](#)
  - See also the Course Research Page which contains much material about KIEU including sample themes. It is at: <http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/swenssonjohn>
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- [Links to an external site.](#)

And the Thomas Pilsch Research Site:

**<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>**