

Fall 2008

English W3966x  
**Literature, Culture, and War in the Twentieth Century**  
Professor Sarah Cole

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## Syllabus

Mon, Sept. 8	Introduction Some War Conventions: Rupert Brooke, "Peace" Julia Ward Howe, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"
Mon, Sept. 15	Leadership: Homer, from <i>Iliad</i> Tolstoy, from <i>War and Peace</i> Carl von Clausewitz, from <i>On War</i> Films: <i>The Fog of War</i> , <i>Letters from Iwo Jima</i>
Mon, Sept. 22	The Body in Pain: Wilfred Owen, selected poems Mary Borden, from <i>The Forbidden Zone</i> Elaine Scarry, <i>The Body in Pain</i> (3-23; 60-139)
Mon, Sept. 29	Anti-War, Protest: Erich Maria Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, Robert Graves, W. D. Ehrhart, Brian Turner, selected poems
Mon., Oct. 6	Anti-War, Protest: Ron Kovic, <i>Born on the Fourth of July</i> Film: <i>Stop Loss</i>
Mon, Oct. 13	Shell Shock, Trauma, and the Return of the Soldier: Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, selected poems Tim O'Brien, from <i>The Things They Carried</i> Eric Leed, from <i>No Man's Land</i> Films: <i>Taxi Driver</i> , <i>In the Valley of Elah</i>
Mon, Oct. 20	Male Bonding, Glamorizing Violence: Anthony Swofford, from <i>Jarhead</i> Klaus Theweleit, from <i>Male Fantasies</i> Film: <i>Full Metal Jacket</i>

Mon, Oct. 27	Making Myths, Reclaiming War: Thomas Hardy, "Drummer Hodge" Rupert Brooke, "The Soldier" René Girard, from <i>Violence and the Sacred</i> Films: <i>Apocalypse Now</i> , <i>Deer Hunter</i>
Mon, Nov. 3	<b>No Class, Time to vote!</b>
Mon, Nov. 10	Can War be Heroic in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century?: W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, selected poems Ernest Hemingway, <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> Film: <i>Spanish Earth</i>
Mon, Nov. 17	Telling, Retelling, Reporting: Michael Herr, <i>Dispatches</i> Susan Sontag, from <i>Regarding the Pain of Others</i> Film: <i>War Photographer</i>
Mon, Nov. 24	Absurdity, Humor, and other Strategies: Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> Film: <i>Life is Beautiful</i> <b>Paper prospectus due Wed., Nov. 26</b>
Mon, Dec. 1	Memory, Fragments, Commemoration: Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" Katherine Mansfield, "The Fly" Tim O'Brien, from <i>The Things They Carried</i> Nam Le, from <i>The Boat</i> James Young, from <i>The Texture of Memory</i>
Mon, Dec. 8	Memory, Fragments, Commemoration: Michael Ondaatje, <i>The English Patient</i>
Wed, Dec. 10	<b>Final paper due, no extensions</b>