



English 380-1

The Rhetoric of Modern War

Professor:	Dr. Amy Milakovic	Office:	BOR 405
Office Hours:	MW 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. TR 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. or by appointment	E-mail:	Amy.Milakovic@avila.edu
Class:	MW 2:00 - 3:15 BOR 402	Phone:	816-501-3633
		Credit:	3 semester hours

Course Description

In 1946, George Orwell, wrote, "In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible. Things like the continuance of British rule in India, the Russian purges and deportations, the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan, can indeed be defended, but only by arguments which are too brutal for most people to face, and which do not square with the professed aims of political parties."

We will consider Orwell's declaration and literature's response as we explore several 20th century wars through a variety of genres and perspectives. In doing so, we will give particular attention to how the individual experience of war operates within the dominant meta-narrative of those wars. We will grapple with what is "true" and what the responsible author owes his/her readers in communicating that truth. By the end of the course, you should have a better understanding of the complex dynamism that exists in democracies and a heightened sense of what going to war means.

Required Texts and Materials

- *Democracy*. Joan Didion.
- *Salvador*. Joan Didion.
- *Slaughterhouse Five*. Kurt Vonnegut.
- *Night*. Elie Wiesel.
- *The Quiet American*. Graham Greene.
- *Hiroshima*. John Hersey.
- *The Shawl*. Cynthia Ozick.
- "The Things They Carried." Tim O'Brien. • "How to Tell a True War Story." Tim O'Brien.
- Selected poems from *Hearts & Minds*.