TERM PROJECT

In addition to mastering the reading and lecture materials for this course, you are required to do a term project, whose primary purpose is to give you an opportunity carefully to develop some ideas on a theme related to the fundamental subject of this course. We are looking for a polished essay, not to exceed 10 pages, which is due at the end of the 8th week of class. The topic you select can be of your own choosing, though you are encouraged to talk with one of your Teaching Assistants before you proceed. Among the kinds of topics you may select (though this is not an exhaustive or limiting list) are the following:

1. An interview with someone who served in Vietnam, perhaps a member of your own family.

2. Additional research on some segment of the war, say, the My Lai Incident, or the background to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, etc.

3. An interpretive biographical sketch of one of the principal figures in the war, whether an American or a Vietnamese -- for example, General Westmoreland, Ho Chi Minh, General Giap, etc.

4. An autobiographical account of your own involvement in and/or connection to the war. Perhaps you were born in Vietnam, and experienced the war at close range. Perhaps (if you are a re-entry student) you protested the war. Perhaps you have become acquainted with the war by knowing someone who fought or served there. Perhaps you have some exposure to Asia -- other Asian countries -- and wish to use this as a point of entry to some portion or aspect of the war experience.

5. An analysis of the way in which the Vietnam Veterans Memorial functions as a place of national remembrance and healing from the war. Or an analysis of the religious dimensions of the war.

6. A comparison of the Vietnam War with another war (or wars) in which the United States was involved -- World War II, The Civil War, etc.