General, man is very useful. He can fly and he can kill. But he has one defect: He can think.

-Bertolt Brecht

This course will take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding representations of modern warfare in a variety of artistic media – including literature, cinema & animated film, opera, painting, photography & performance art from a variety of 20th & 21st century “theaters” of war: Germany & Japan in WWII, The Korean War, Vietnam, and Iraq from 1991 to the present.

Assigned readings will critically examine a range of issues concerning modern warfare: military prostitution and “comfort women,” war’s ecological impact, GI disobedience, and the economics of war. Authors will include Susan Sontag, Nora Okja Keller, Alexander Kluge, and Etel Adnan. Films shown in class will include Germany Pale Mother, anime film Grave of the Fireflies, documentary Sir! No Sir! and the opera, Doctor Atomic.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**GE credit (Old):** Arts & Humanities.

**GE credit (New):** Arts & Humanities, World Cultures, and Writing Experience.

**Format:** Lecture · 3 hours; Extensive Writing.

Instructor: Kevin Michael Smith
Ph.D. Student in Comparative Literature @ UCD

For more information, please contact Amy Lowrey (allowrey@ucdavis.edu) or visit http://humanities.ucdavis.edu/