

Hello, Fellow Readers and welcome to the class!

I am excited to be reading and studying these two remarkable novels with you for the next six weeks.

We are all of an age where the events of the Vietnam War and its repercussions have been memorable parts of our historical past. The authors of these novels were soldiers on opposing sides, whose experiences were formative in their lives as well as in their chosen writing style. In rejecting a traditional narrative style, Tim O'Brien and Bao Ninh create texts that transcend their own factual reality to create emotional truths about this and all wars. Ironically, because of the impact of these "truths," both books have been censored in their respective countries.

We will be meeting on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 in Room 119 at the UMA Brunswick Center, Orion Hall, at Brunswick Landing starting November 5. Although I will be presenting information and clarifying ideas, my hope is that the class will be primarily discussion based.

Below, I've included information about the texts to be used, available in print, digital, and recorded copies.

For the first class, please have read the first seven stories ("The Things They Carried" through "How to Tell a True War Story"). Our discussion will center on those two stories as well as "On the Rainy River."

Next week, you will find the syllabus as well as resources on our class page, available on the MSC site. In addition, I will post thought questions that will help to center our class discussions of each assignment.

Cheers,
Michele

mlettieri@gmail.com
(207) 751-2333

TEXTS:

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*, ISBN 978-0618706419
Bao Ninh, *The Sorrow of War*, ISBN 978-0525562849

Both novels are available new/secondhand at Amazon and secondhand at thriftbooks.com, abebooks.com, and alibris.com.
Both are also available on Kindle.

RECORDINGS:

The Things They Carried

Audible Audiobook (\$17.46) read by Bryan Cranston (available on Amazon)
AudioBook (not read by Cranston) available at Curtis Library

The Sorrow of War

Audible Audiobook (\$16.99) read by James Langton (available on Amazon)
Audiobook preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBQJZMEeCQ&t=3s>