

PART I: IDENTIFICATIONS

ONE of THESE will be selected for you to answer. Four points.

Answers should identify the person, group, place, concept, theory, event, or item in several paragraphs. Answers should include a description as well as an assessment of the significance of the term to this class. In other words, why are we studying it? How is it relevant to our concern with the political context of American popular culture? (NOTE: Significance MUST be included in order to receive full credit.) When formulating your answers think in terms of what, who, why, where, when, and how.

John Rambo
"The Hour of the Bath"
Red Dawn
John Wayne
Barry Sadler

"Ohio"
The Goldbergs
"Okie from Muskogee"
Fulton J. Sheen
China Gate

PART II: ESSAY QUESTION

ONE of THESE will be selected for you to answer. Six points.

These questions are provided in advance so you can prepare yourself as thoroughly as possible to write coherent and detailed essays. The best essays will integrate substantial material from the lectures and the readings and demonstrate your ability to explain the important processes at work. Think in terms of concepts, patterns of behavior, divergent worldviews and perspectives, and the ways that particular historical experiences can help you demonstrate that you understand "what happened." Be sure to cite relevant facts from the readings (including primary documents we have studied) and/or lectures to support your argument. In other words, demonstrate the validity of your point of view; do not merely assert it.

1. American politicians and filmmakers confronted the Vietnam War and its legacies in a variety of ways in the late 1970s and 1980s. Drawing on the examples of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan as political leaders, and *Rambo: First Blood Part II* and *Red Dawn* as cultural artifacts, explain how American political and popular culture addressed the history of the war and/or sought to "remasculinize" the United States after 1975.
2. In *The Things They Carried* the character named Tim O'Brien, in a chapter on his contemplative visit to the Rainy River before serving in Vietnam, revealed, "I survived, but it's not a happy ending. I was a coward. I went to the war." [Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried* (New York: Broadway Books, 1990), 61] Why would the O'Brien character conclude as much?
3. The Vietnam War had a profound effect on American popular culture. Drawing on cultural artifacts we have examined in this class, explain the different ways that the war's meaning was conveyed to Americans before 1975 through film, television, and music.