

**LITERATURE, ETHICS, AND AUTHORITY  
15.269**

**Class #3: Wednesday 14 February 2001**

See:

David Russell, *Three Kings* (showing Tuesday 2/13, 7 pm, E51-145)

Study Questions:

1. In this film about war and the military, we are presented with numerous examples of leadership and the exercise of authority. What is the nature of that leadership, and of the hierarchy in which it is exercised?
2. What do you make of the religious overtones of *Three Kings*, from Chief Elgin's faith, to the Muslim shrine where Vig will be buried, to U2's "In God's Country" (on the soundtrack during the closing credits), to the title of the film? Do these elements offer an implicit commentary on the ethics of the various characters' actions, or on the nature of faith?
3. Why does Russell, the director, include views of internal organs in the course of the film? What do you make of Gates' thoroughly documented medical intervention to save Barlow? How does it comment on the action of the film as a whole?