

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

HISTORY 305: History of the Vietnam War

Prepared By: Summer Hahn
Revised By: Patrick LaPierre

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
May 2015**

HIST 305---History of the Vietnam War

- A. TITLE: History of the Vietnam War
- B. COURSE NUMBER: HIST 305
- C. CREDIT HOURS: 3
- D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: Yes
- E. COURSE LENGTH: 15 weeks
- F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Fall and/or Spring
- G. HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, AND ACTIVITY: 3 lecture hours per week.
- H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course provides an in-depth examination of the 20th century conflict in Vietnam through the lens of American involvement and interaction. Political, social, economic and cultural contexts will be explored from both American and Vietnamese perspectives. The impact of the Vietnam War on American society, politics, and its Cold War foreign policy and conduct will be examined as will the impact of the war on Vietnamese society and its subsequent development.
- I. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES: Expository Writing (ENGL 101) or Oral and Written Expression (ENGL 102); and Modern United States History (HIST 105) or World History (HIST 217); or by permission of the instructor.
- J. GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
a. Describe the conditions and events that led to American involvement in Vietnam.	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence
b. Analyze the U.S. commitment to Vietnam in the context of the Cold War.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
c. Explain the evolution of American and North Vietnamese military and diplomatic strategy and tactics.	1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence
d. Analyze the impact of domestic politics, the anti-war movement and the news media on American	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence

military and diplomatic activities.	
e. Evaluate the successes and failures of American and Vietnamese policy and tactics.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence
f. Analyze the consequences of the war in Vietnam on Asian politics and on American society, diplomacy and military strategy.	2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence

GER 4 - AMERICAN HISTORY GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):

Students will demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society.
2. Knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups.
3. Understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world.

K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor, but may include;

Sheehan, Neil. *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam* (New York: Random House, 1988).

Prouty, L. Fletcher. *JFK: The CIA, Vietnam and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy* (New York: Carol, 1996).

McMahon, Robert J. ed. *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War: Documents and Essays 3rd Edition* (New York, Houghton Mifflin, 2003).

Ketwig, John. *And a Hard Rain Fell: A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam* (New York, MacMillian and Sons, 1985).

Karnow, Stanley. *Vietnam: A History* (Penguin, 1997)

Appy, Christian G. *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides* (Penguin, 2004)

L. REFERENCES:

Books and Periodicals:

- Addington, Larry. *America's War in Vietnam: A Short Narrative History* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000).
- Allen, George W. *None So Blind: A Personal Account of the Intelligence Failure in Vietnam* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2001).
- Amter, Joseph A. *Vietnam Verdict: A Citizen's History* (New York: Continuum, 1982).
- Anderson, David L. *The Vietnam War*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).
- Andrade, Dale and Kenneth Conboy. "The Secret Side of the Tonkin Gulf Incident," *Naval History* 13:4 (July/August 1999).
- Ang Cheng Guan. *The Vietnam War from the Other Side: The Vietnamese Communists' Perspective* (London and New York: Routledge Curzon (Taylor & Francis), 2002).
- Arnold, James R. *The First Domino: Eisenhower, the Military, and America's Intervention in Vietnam* (New York: Morrow, 1991).
- Austin, Anthony. *The President's War* (New York: Lippincott, 1971).
- Baritz, Loren. *Backfire: A History of How American Culture Led Us into Vietnam and Made Us Fight the Way We Did* (New York: Morrow, 1985).
- Becker, Elizabeth. *America's Vietnam War: A Narrative History* (New York: Clarion, 1992).
- Brown, Sam and Len Ackland, Eds. *Why are We Still in Vietnam?* (New York: Random House, 1970).
- Buttinger, Joseph. *Vietnam: A Political History* (New York: Praeger, 1968).
- _____. *A Dragon Defiant: A Short History of Vietnam* (New York: Praeger, 1972).
- Calley, William L. (as told to John Sack). *Lieutenant Calley: His Own Story* (New York: Viking, 1971).

- Chomsky, Noam. *At War With Asia: Essays on Indochina* (New York: Random House, 1970).
- _____. *Rethinking Camelot: JFK, the Vietnam War, and U.S. Political Culture* (Boston: South End Press, 1993).
- Clark, Bronson P. *Not By Might: A Viet Nam Memoir* (Glastonbury, Connecticut: Chapel Rock Publishers, 1997).
- Davidson, Gen. Phillip B. *Vietnam at War: The History 1946–1975* (Novato, CA: Presidio, 1988).
- DeBenedetti, Charles with Charles Chatfield. *An American Ordeal: The Antiwar Movement of the Vietnam Era* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1990).
- DeForest, Orrin and David Chanoff. *Slow Burn: The Rise and Bitter Fall of American Intelligence in Vietnam* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990).
- DeGroot, Gerald J. *A Noble Cause? America and the Vietnam War* (London: Longman, 1999).
- Drachman, Edward R. *United States Policy Toward Vietnam, 1940-1945* (Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1970).
- Drea, Edward J. "Tonkin Gulf Incident: Reappraisal 40 Years Later." *MHQ* Summer 2004.
- Dumbrell, John Ed. *Vietnam and the Antiwar Movement--An International Perspective* (Brookfield, VT: Gower, 1989).
- Elliott, David. *The Vietnamese War: Revolution and Social Change in the Mekong Delta, 1930–1975* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2003).
- Firestone, Bernard J. and Robert C. Vogt, Eds. *Lyndon Johnson and the Uses of Power* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1988).
- Fitzgerald, Frances. *Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam* (New York: Random House, 1972).
- Foley, Michael S. *Confronting the War Machine: Draft Resistance During the Vietnam War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003).
- Freedman, Lawrence. *Kennedy's Wars: Berlin, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).

- Gardner, Lloyd C. *Approaching Vietnam: From World War II through Dienbienphu* (New York: Norton, 1988).
- Halberstam, David. *The Making of a Quagmire* (New York: Random House, 1965).
- Haycraft, William Russell. *Unraveling Vietnam: How American Arms and Diplomacy Failed in Southeast Asia* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2006).
- Hendry, James B. "American Aid in Vietnam: The View from a Village." *Pacific Affairs* 33:4 (December 1960), pp. 387–91.
- Herring, George C. *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950–1975*, 4th edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002).
- Hersh, Seymour M. *Cover-Up* (New York: Random House, 1972).
- Hess, Gary R. *The United States' Emergence as a Southeast Asian Power, 1940-1950* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1987).
- Hoang Ngoc Thanh and Than Thi Nhan Duc. *President Ngo Dinh Diem and the US: His Overthrow and Assassination* (San Jose: Tuan-Yen and Quan-Viet Mai-Nam Publishers, 2001).
- Kahin, George M. *Intervention: How America became Involved in Vietnam* (New York: Knopf, 1986).
- _____, and John Lewis. *The United States in Vietnam* (Delta, 1967).
- Karnow, Stanley. *Vietnam: A History* (New York: Viking, 1983).
- Krepinevich, Andrew F. Jr. *The Army in Vietnam* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986).
- Levy, David W. *The Debate Over Vietnam* (Johns Hopkins, 1991)
- Lomperis, Timothy J. *The War Everyone Lost—and Won: America's Intervention in Viet Nam's Twin Struggles* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984).
- _____. *From People's War to People's Rule: Insurgency, Intervention, and the Lessons of Vietnam*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

Moise, Edwin E. "JFK and the Myth of Withdrawal," in Marilyn B. Young and Robert Buzzanco, Eds. *A Companion to the Vietnam War* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2002).

"Mutual Defense Assistance: Indochina--Agreement Between the United States of America and Cambodia, France, Laos, and Viet-nam." *The American Journal of International Law* 48:3 (July 1954), pp. 133-137.

Newman, John M. *JFK and Vietnam: Deception, Intrigue, and the Struggle for Power* (New York: Warner, 1992).

Oliver, Kendrick. *The My Lai Massacre in American History and Memory* (Manchester, England: Manchester University Press, 2006).

Pham Kim Vinh. *The Politics of Selfishness: Vietnam—The Past as Prologue* (San Diego: privately printed, 1977).

Rotter, Andrew J. *The Path to Vietnam* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987).

Rust, William J. *Kennedy in Vietnam* (New York: Scribners, 1985).

Shaplen, Robert. *The Lost Revolution: The U.S. in Vietnam, 1946–1966* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965).

_____. *The Road From War: Vietnam 1965–1971* (New York: Harper & Row, 1970).

Thayer, Carlyle. *War by Other Means: National Liberation and Revolution in Viet-Nam, 1954–60* (Cambridge, MA: Unwin Hyman, 1989).

Woolsey, L. H. "The United States and Indo-China." *The American Journal of International Law* 48:2 (April 1954), pp. 276-281.

Films and Documentaries:

A Bright Shining Lie (1998)

American Experience: Vietnam (2000)

Born on the Fourth of July (1989)

Casualties of War (1989)

Dear America: Letters from Vietnam (1998)

Deer Hunter (1978)

The Fog of War (2004)

Full Metal Jacket (1987)

Hearts and Minds (1975)

The Killing Fields (1984)
Platoon (1986)
Vietnam a Television History (1983)
Vietnam: the Ten Thousand Day War (1998)
Your Tour in Vietnam (1964)
Winter Soldier (1972)

- M. EQUIPMENT: Students will be required to use sources on the internet. Some faculty teaching the course may prefer a technology equipped classroom.
- N. GRADING METHOD: A-F
- O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS: Students will be required to write a
- research paper, ●and take essay exams.
- P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: See attached.
- Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None.

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Imperialism in Vietnam (208 BCE-1954 CE)
- a. Chinese Influence
 - Tonkin Delta
 - Red River
 - Ch'in Dynasty
 - Ming Dynasty
 - b. French Influence
 - Bao Dai
 - c. Japanese Influence
 - WWII

II. Vietnam and Revolution (40-1975 CE)

A. Chinese

- Trung Trac
- T'ang Dynasty
- Move for Independence

B. French

- Napoleon III
- "Can Vuong"
- Ho Chi Minh
- Japanese Occupation WWII
- National Committee for the Liberation of Vietnam
- Dien Bien Phu

III. U.S. Involvement (1940-1974)

A. WWII

1. American aid to Ho Chi Minh during WWII

- Through the Vietminh (Vietnamese League for Independence)

B. Cold War (1945-1989)

- Domino Theory
- Containment Theory
- Korea

C. French Loss at Dien Bien Phu (1954)

- End of American Aid to French
- Geneva Accords

D. Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) (1954)

- Legacy

E. The Vietnamese Civil War (1955-1965)

- Vietcong
- U.S. “Advisors”

IV. American Conflict in Vietnam (1965-1975)

A. Official American Policies

a. Escalation

- Tonkin Gulf Resolution (1964)
- The “Americanized” conflict

b. Gradual Withdrawal

- “Vietnamization”
- Cambodia and Laos

B. Issues on U.S. Soil

a. Opposition (1964-1975)

- Anti-War demonstration
- Draft Dodging
- Student Conflicts

b. Media Coverage

- Tet Offensive
- Saigon
- Television

V. Results of the Vietnam Conflict for U.S.

A. Splits within the U.S.

1. On Military

- Reasons for First Loss
- Tactical Errors

2. On Government

- Disillusionment
- Loss of Trust
- Post-Vietnam Syndrome

3. On Culture

a. Counterculture

- Music

b. Anti-War Movement

- Protests

c. Race

- American Minority's role in conflict

d. Veterans status

- h. Treatment at home

4. On World Opinion

VI. Results of the Vietnam Conflict on Vietnam

A. South Vietnam

- Non-Communists

B. Military

- Important Victory

C. Government

- Communist Control
- Relations with China and U.S.S.R.

D. Culture

- Tradition of Revolution Ended

VII. Lessons Learned or Not Learned by the U.S. Since the War

- U.S./Vietnam relationship since conflict to current time
- Refugee/POW Crisis

A. Effectiveness of Cold War policies

B. Persian Gulf War

C. Iraq