COURSE OUTLINE

HISTORY 305: History of the Vietnam War

Prepared By: Summer Hahn
Revised By: Patrick LaPierre
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:

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

e. Evaluate the successes and failures of American and Vietnamese policy and tactics.

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;


L. REFERENCES:

Books and Periodicals:


Hersh, Seymour M. *Cover-Up* (New York: Random House, 1972).


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).


**Films and Documentaries:**

*A Bright Shining Lie* (1998)
*Born on the Fourth of July* (1989)
*Casualties of War* (1989)
*Deer Hunter* (1978)
*Full Metal Jacket* (1987)
*Hearts and Minds* (1975)
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