

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



MASTER SYLLABUS

HISTORY 305 – HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

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Updated by: Dr. Patrick LaPierre

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT - HISTORY
Fall 202**

- A. **TITLE:** HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** HIST 305
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hours per week for 15 weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** NO
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** GER 4
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course students will examine 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.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
Composition & The Spoken Word (ENGL 101) and
US History Since 1865 (HIST 105); or permission of the instructor.
- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

| SLO | GER | ISLO |
|---|---|---|
| Describe the conditions and events that led to American involvement in Vietnam. | Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society | 5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills |
| Analyze the U.S. commitment to Vietnam in the context of the Cold War. | Understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of world | 2 – Critical Thinking [CA] |
| Explain the evolution of American and North Vietnamese military and diplomatic strategy and tactics. | Understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of world | 2 – Critical Thinking [IA] |
| Analyze the impact of domestic politics, the antiwar movement and the news media on American military and diplomatic activities | Knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups | 2 – Critical Thinking [IA] |
| Evaluate the successes and failures of American and Vietnamese policy and tactics. | Understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of world | 2 – Critical Thinking [CA] |

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| Analyze the consequences of the war in Vietnam on Asian politics and on American society, diplomacy and military strategy. | Understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of world | 4 – Social Responsibility [GL] |
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J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes. Research.

K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor.

Appy, Christian G. *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides* (Penguin, 2004)
 Goscha, Christopher. *Vietnam* (Basic, 2016)
 Hastings, Max. *Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy, 1945-1975* (Harper, 2018)
 Karnow, Stanley. *Vietnam: A History* (Penguin, 1997)
 Kiernan, Ben. *Viet Nam* (Oxford 2017)
 Levy, David. *The Debate Over Vietnam* (JHU, 1991)
 McMahon, Robert J. ed. *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War: Documents and Essays*, 3rd Edition (New York, Houghton Mifflin, 2003).
 Sheehan, Neil. *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam* (New York: Random House, 1988).

L. REFERENCES: Books and Periodicals:

Addington, Larry. *America's War in Vietnam: A Short Narrative History* (Bloomington, 2000).
 Anderson, David L. *The Vietnam War*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).
 Ang Cheng Guan. *The Vietnam War from the Other Side: The Vietnamese Communists' Perspective* (Routledge, 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).
 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).
 Firestone, Bernard J. and Robert C. Vogt, Eds. *Lyndon Johnson and the Uses of Power* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1988).
 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).
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).
Jones, Howard. *My Lai* (Oxford, 2017)
Buzzanco, Robert and Young, Marilyn, eds., *A Companion to the Vietnam War* (Oxford:

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: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:
essay examinations, quizzes, group research projects, oral presentations, class discussion, debates

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: (must use the outline format listed below)

I - Emergence of Vietnam

A – Red River Settlements
B – Chinese Conquest
C – Revolts
D - Independence

II – Vietnamese Nationhood

A – The Great March
B – Mekong River Settlements
C – Economic and Cultural Growth
D – Domestic Unrest

III – European Colonialism

A – French Colonial Intervention

- B – Social and Cultural Change
- C – Formation of Revolutionary Movements (Vietnminh)
- D – The First Indochina War

III – American Involvement

- A – The Cold War and American Intelligence
- B – American Economic Intervention
- C – The Gulf of Tonkin and American Military Intervention

IV – The Vietnam War

- A – The Air Campaign
- B – Ground Troops
- C – Vietnam as a Theater for War
- D – Strategy and Tactics
- E – LBJ: Guns V. Butter

V – De-escalation an the End of the War

- A – Anti-War Protests
- B – Nixon and Vietnamization
- C – Paris Peace Treaty
- D – The American Aftermath

VI – Vietnam Post-War

- A – Communist Rule
- B – Doi Moi
- C – The Chinese Model
- D - Vietnam Today

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: n/a