



COURSE OUTLINE : HIST 135

D Credit – Degree Applicable

COURSE ID 004116

Cyclical Review: February 2020

Revision: October 2021

COURSE DISCIPLINE : HIST

COURSE NUMBER : 135

COURSE TITLE (FULL) : The Vietnam War and Cultural Legacies

COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : The Vietnam War

ACADEMIC SENATE DISCIPLINE: History

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

HIST 135 examines the history of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia during the twentieth century and the legacies of the Vietnam War up to the present. The course surveys the histories of Chinese influence in the region, French colonialism, and the different phases of U.S. commitment. It studies wartime experiences on the U.S. home front, the Cold War conflict and rivalry, and decolonization across the world. The course also explores how Vietnam continues to influence the U.S. as shown in its foreign policy and subsequent wars, its political debates, and its popular culture.

Total Lecture Units:3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.00

Total Course Units: 3.00

Total Lecture Hours:54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 54.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 100 or ESL 151.



ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	Read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories to identify topic, thesis, support, transitions, conclusion, audience, and tone;	Yes
2	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories for the comprehension of difficult content and the identification of main ideas and (topic-based) evidence;	Yes
3	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate student compositions for unity, development, use of evidence, interpretation, coherence, and variety of sentence form;	Yes
4	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write a summary of a contemporary article or story with correct citation techniques;	Yes
5	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, demonstrating a basic understanding of essay organization;	Yes
6	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that addresses the topic, is directed by a thesis statement, uses appropriate textual evidence, develops logical interpretations, and concludes with some compelling observations;	Yes
7	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that integrates the ideas of others (i.e., authors) through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting with correct citation techniques;	Yes
8	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that generates novel ideas (those that add to the conversation rather than repeating the author's ideas) related to the topic and the readings;	Yes
9	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write compositions (e.g., summaries and argumentative essays) that are easy to read and follow, though some errors in grammar, mechanics, spelling, or diction may exist;	Yes
10	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	proofread and edit essays for content, language, citation, and formatting problems;	Yes
11	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	read and critically analyze various academic readings;	Yes
12	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	summarize readings;	Yes
13	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	organize fully-developed essays in both expository and argumentative modes;	Yes



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14	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	compose a 500 to 550-word essay which: summarizes and cites appropriately a reading passage; includes a clear thesis statement; uses evidence to support the thesis; shows clear organization into an introduction, body, and conclusion;	Yes
15	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	revise writing to eliminate errors in syntax, and grammatical constructions;	Yes
16	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	employ basic library research techniques;	Yes
17	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	compose one research paper (1,000 words) or two short research papers (500-700words each) with citations;	Yes

EXIT STANDARDS

- 1 Summarize the basic outlines of Vietnamese history and culture, and describe how the various interventions of the Chinese, French, Japanese, and U.S. fit into that history;
- 2 identify the factors leading to U.S. intervention in Vietnam, to escalation of U.S. aid and military force, and to eventual withdrawal from the war by U.S. officials and soldiers;
- 3 use the example of the Vietnam War to discuss the concepts of imperialism, the Cold War, and decolonization;
- 4 explain the chief reasons for the South Vietnamese government’s collapse and the U.S.’s failure to achieve its major military and political goals;
- 5 describe the major actions of both supporters and opponents of the Vietnam War on the U.S. home front;
- 6 outline unresolved issues of the war, including the struggles of U.S. veterans and the situations of Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian emigrants.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 evaluate the consequences and legacies of the Vietnam War for U.S. politics;
- 2 explain the influence of memories of the Vietnam War on U.S. culture and society;
- 3 evaluate the major ways in which wars, and the Vietnam War in particular, affect a country’s culture and politics even after the violence stops.

COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Vietnamese Culture, Geography, and History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical realities • Cultural influences • Emergence of Vietnamese identity 	3	0	3



2	<p>European Imperialism and Establishment of French Rule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juxtaposition of Indochina with other examples of imperialism • Emergence of Nationalism and Communism • Ho Chi Minh and other anticolonial leaders • World War II and Japanese invasions • The First Indochina War • The Cold War context • U.S. foreign policy under Presidents Truman and Eisenhower 	4	0	4
3	<p>Early U.S. Commitment to Vietnam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Geneva Conference • Establishment of the Diem government and increase in U.S. aid • The decolonization context • Policies of the Kennedy Administration and build-up of U.S. personnel • Rising opposition to the Diem government and the coup • The Gulf of Tonkin incident and Resolution 	5	0	5
4	<p>The Johnson Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained U.S. bombing and arrival of U.S. combat troops • Communist forces and strategies in North and South Vietnam • U.S. forces, strategies, and military technologies • Elections and struggles of the Saigon government • Experiences of U.S. and Vietnamese combat soldiers • The Tet Offensive and fallout 	5	0	5



5	<p>The Nixon and Ford Administrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Kissinger and Nixonian foreign policy • “Vietnamization” • Extension of into Cambodia and Laos and escalation of U.S. bombing • The Paris Peace Agreements • Pullouts of U.S. troops and exchanges of POWs • The fall of Saigon and evacuation of the U.S. Embassy 	5	0	5
6	<p>Controversies and Disagreements on the Wartime Home Front</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the U.S. media • Student activism • The selective service system and its imbalances • The My Lai massacre and trial • The Pentagon Papers • Public demonstrations and rallies • The “Hawks” and opposition to antiwar protestors 	6	0	6
7	<p>Postwar Southeast Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emigrations from Vietnam and Southeast Asia • Postwar Vietnamese politics and economic struggles • Tragedies in Cambodia and Laos • Persistent hardships from defoliants and UXOs 	5	0	5
8	<p>U.S. Veterans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The readjustment of Vietnam veterans • Postwar care and treatment of Vietnam veterans • Commemorations and memorials of service 	5	0	5
9	<p>Vietnamese Americans and Other Amerasians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments to U.S. culture • Achievements • Cultural work: literature, art, etc. 	4	0	4



10	Vietnam’s Influences on Postwar U.S. Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vietnam literature • Vietnam film • Pop expressions of Vietnam memory • Vietnam and the 1970s “malaise” 	7	0	7
11	Vietnam’s Political Legacies and Ongoing Debates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam • Lessons for diplomacy and foreign policy • Lessons for military strategy • Today’s U.S. military and absence of a draft • Public memory of Vietnam and its role in contemporary politics 	5	0	5
				54

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 essay (e.g., summarize and reflect upon a short story by Tim O’Brien);
- 2 individual or group projects (e.g., compose a pitch for a prospective documentary about the Battle of Dienbienphu);
- 3 research assignment (e.g., evaluate primary sources in a deep examination of the trial of William Calley).

METHODS OF EVALUATION

- 1 in-class examinations;
- 2 individual or group oral presentations;
- 3 class participation;
- 4 final examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio
- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study
- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration



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Field Activities (Trips)

Guest Speakers

Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975	Required	McGraw-Hill	6	print	Herring, George C.	978- 125992250 3	2019
The Vietnam War: A Concise International History	Required	Oxford UP		print	Lawrence, Mark Atwood	978-0-19- 975393-2	2010
Paco's Story: A Novel	Supplemental	Vintage	1	print	Larry Heinemann	978- 140007683 3	2005