

# THE VIETNAM WAR—HISTORY 4430 –spring 2012

Jan. 12-April 19, 2012  
Thursday 5:30 to 8:00 PM  
Dr. Goldstein  
Biology 114C

## [1] Learning Outcomes:

Welcome to 'Vietnam'. This is a course about the Vietnam War. While any history of this particular period is, of necessity, military history, this course will also endeavor to explore political, social and cultural factors because they are a necessary part of understanding the dynamics of any war. At the end of this course the student should be familiar with those political, social, cultural, military, and historical factors.

## [2] Differences Between History 4430 and 5430:

Graduate students taking History 5430 will have a significantly harder and longer midterm exam, a significantly harder and longer final exam, and a significantly harder and longer research paper than undergraduate students taking History 4430. Those are the key differences between History 4430 and History 5430.

## [3] Assessment Procedures and Grading Policies:

This syllabus is a contract which means what it says and says what it means. The first thing you should do in this class is to read this syllabus carefully. If you feel that you can not meet the expectations outlined in this syllabus for any reason you should not be taking this class.

There will be one mid-term examination during the course of the term and a final examination at the end of the course. These examinations will cover lecture material plus assigned readings. The exact date, scope, and form of the exams will be announced at the appropriate time. Unannounced quizzes based on an assignment are possible at any time. Each student must do a book review, details to be provided. Grades will be determined as follows:

Mid-term		25 percent
Book Review	25 percent	
Final	25 percent	
Map exercise and reading quiz(zes)		25 percent

Consistent with college regulations, graduating seniors will not be obligated to take the final exam in this course. If you wish to omit your final exam please let the professor know by Thus. April 12. In that case your course grade will be the prorated average of all other grades in this course calculated as: midterm 33%, term paper 33%, and quiz average 33%.

Attendance at all announced exams is required. Except under very exceptional circumstances, make-up exams will not be allowed unless the student is excused before the regular exam time for legitimate reasons.

## [4] Meetings: The class will meet Thursday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 8p.m.

Dates are Jan. 12 through April 19, 2012.

**[5] Office Hours:** Office hours will be held in TLC Room 3207 immediately after class beginning Jan. 18 Th 8:10-9 PM; also on M/W 4:50-5:50 PM and by appointment. Students who have questions, who are concerned about their performance in class or on tests or would like simply to confer over a free cup of coffee should take it upon themselves to see the professor in his office. If you have any problems or questions, please do not hesitate to come by. Also feel free to telephone me at 678-839-6034 or 6508 and leave a message.

Please do not attempt to speak to the professor before class, when he is engaged in straightening out the classroom, handing out papers, erasing the blackboards, putting new material on the blackboard, and other tasks.

If you come late to class or miss a class for any reason, be sure to see Dr. Goldstein in his office during regularly scheduled office hours, to pick up any handouts, quizzes, or assignments which you may have missed.

A positive learning atmosphere is essential in this classroom. Please do not distract the students around you by reading newspapers or doing work for other classes during class time. Feel free to use a lap top computer, but only for the purpose of note taking during this class. Playing chess and reading email during class time is inappropriate and very distracting to others. You will be asked to leave the lap top at home if you engage in such activities during class time.

**[6] Methods of Instruction:** The course will be taught through lecture, discussion, outside speakers and an occasional film. Do all the assigned readings. I encourage you to ask questions and raise issues. We have flexibility in our schedule and can take time to discuss issues you may raise.

## **[7] TEXTS/REQUIRED MATERIALS**

There are two required texts for this course:  
Boettcher, VIETNAM: THE VALOR AND THE SORROW. Trade & Culture Press, publishers.  
Lederer and Burdick, THE UGLY AMERICAN. Fawcett, publishers.

Please also purchase two LARGE (8 ½" x 11") blue books from the college bookstore and give it to the professor on the second meeting of class, Thursday ,Jan. 19. Please do not put your name on these blue books.

## **[8] Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be taken. Since we have only fifteen class meetings it is most important that everyone attend each class session. Anything above two absences in this class, including leaving class early, which constitutes an absence, will be grounds for dismissal from class. Two latenesses to class are the equivalent of one absence. It should be made very clear that (a) students are responsible for all material presented in class; (b) examinations will be based substantially on this material; and © a positive attitude shown by an absence of cuts and lateness can work to raise a student's letter grade in borderline grading situations.

### [9] CELL PHONE ETIQUETTE AND OTHER COURTESIES

Out of courtesy to those students trying hard to concentrate, please refrain from smoking, drinking, eating, nail polishing, and chewing gum and tobacco during class. Please do not bring children to class. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING CELL PHONES, AUDIBLE PAGERS, OR ALARM WATCHES TO CLASS.** *It is not sufficient to say “Oh, I’m sorry, I forgot to turn off.”* Under no circumstances should this class be used for texting on any electronic device. The student in front of you, behind you, or next to you may be on probation and must do well in this course. It is therefore essential that we have an undistracted, positive learning environment in the classroom.

[10] **Students with disabilities** affecting their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to meet with the professor privately in his office during regular office hours to bring this to his attention so that appropriate accommodations can be made. If possible, all such arrangements should be made prior to the first day of class, so that the student will be able to take full advantage of the first, and arguably the most important, class session.

### [11] TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Assignments should be read/are due on the day for which they are assigned. Reading quizzes are possible on those days.

### WEEK OF:

DATE:	TOPIC:	ASSIGNMENTS:
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Jan. 12 Intro. to course; be sure to read this syllabus thoroughly.

Jan. 19 Intro to report topics, library resources  
Historical geography of Indochina and Southeast Asia.  
Boettcher, FORWARD.  
Two large sized blue books due at the beginning of class.

Jan.. 26 Boettcher,; Boettcher, Ch 1-3; introduction to Indochinese ethnicity, religion, linguistics, culture; introduction to assigned readings and library resources. two 8 1/2” x 11” blue books due before class; Book titles due before class.

Feb. 2 MAP QUIZ DUE BEFORE CLASS; Early modern history of Indochina  
Review Boettcher, Ch 1-3  
French colonial period.

Feb. 9 First Indochina War; America and the World, 1945-50; Boettcher, Ch. 4-5;

Feb. 16 UGLY AMERICAN; Kennedy and Commitment; ; a typed bibliography is due for your research project. Be sure to follow Turabian format and include full information on author, title, name of publisher, place and date of publication.

Feb. 23 MIDTERM EXAM

Mar.1 The Air War, 1961-68; Boettcher, Ch. 6. Tilford, "Set Up"

Mar.8 "Tet" and Its Impact; Johnson's Boettcher, Ch. 7-8  
Decisions of 1968: The Land War

Mar. 15 "Tet" (concluded);

Mar. 22: NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

Mar.29 The Air War, 1969-71; Boettcher, Ch. 6-8(review)

April 5 Protest Movements: "The War at Home"; papers due before class. Any paper turned in after class has begun will be considered one day late and one full letter grade will be deducted. An additional letter grade will be deducted for each day thereafter, including weekend days.

April 12  
Boettcher, Ch. 9.

April 19 Last day of class. Review Protest Movements: "The War at Home"; Boettcher, Ch. 9; Legacies of the War, Third Indochina War; Goldstein, Indochina War on Campus"; last day of class.

April 26 Final exam 5-7:30 PM in the classroom.

**[11] BOOK REVIEW** (Titles due before class Jan. 26; reports due before class April 5.

Please read and review one book only FROM THE LIST YOU WILL BE GIVEN dealing with the Vietnam War, the history of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia during that war, or a topic of relevance to Indochinese history from the nineteenth century to the present. Please have me approve the book before you begin to read. Before class on Sept. 2, please submit in writing full bibliographical information on the book you plan to review (see below). The final, typed, double-spaced printed hard copy of the review is due before class April 5. FAXED or electronic, copies are unacceptable; they are prone to glitches which will only cause you to lose credit. If the report is turned in after the beginning of class on April 5 it will be considered late and a full letter grade will be deducted. An additional full letter grade will be deducted for each additional day late including weekend days. Computer glitches are not acceptable excuses for lateness, so be sure to leave extra time for proofreading.

If you wish to leave something for the professor, please do so in an envelope with his name on it that is left in his mailbox inside the History Department office. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SLIDE ANYTHING YOU WANT THE PROFESSOR TO READ AT THE PROFESSOR'S DOOR. IT MAY WELL BE SWEEPED UP BY THE NIGHT CLEANING CREW AND NEVER BE SEEN BY THE PROFESSOR.**

Please be sure the print of your review is as black as that of this syllabus. If in doubt, show the professor a sample of the print well in advance of the due date for the review.

Your review should contain five elements. Be sure to number and insert each of these subheadings on your review:

[1.] ***Bibliographical information:*** This includes the name of the author, the name of the book, the place of publication, the publisher, and the date of publication. If the book is a reprint of an earlier edition, this should also be indicated in parentheses after the date. Follow the form below carefully; if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kenneth M. Stamp, *The Era of Reconstruction 1865-1877*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1965. This information appears single spaced at the top of the first page of the review. Be certain to use the proper margins as you would on any written paper. If you have doubts about form, consult Kate Turabian's *Manual of Style*, available in Ingram Library.

The remaining four elements of information will be combined in a well-written essay which is to be typed double-spaced. Be sure to number and insert each of these subheadings on your review.

[2.] ***Qualifications of the author:*** Use the finding aids in the reference department of the college library to locate this information. Read the sources and then in your own words evaluate the author's credentials. In the event that you are unable to find information on the author, mention five logical sources consulted without success, giving full bibliographical information on each source.

[3.] ***Author's Purpose:*** Why did the author write this book? Is he or she testing a particular thesis? Why is the subject of special interest to him or to her? Quite often the purpose is stated in the introduction to the book. On the other hand, you may well have to read the book before the purpose is evident.

[4.] ***Was the author's purpose accomplished?*** React in a positive or negative manner to the question and tell why you have done so.

[5.] ***Insights:*** In what way(s) did the book affect your thinking? Did it give you a new perspective on the subject? What new information did you gain from this book, over and above the assigned readings from class? An additional note on book reviews and on plagiarism: You may expect to be questioned orally or in writing on your book. You can be assured that it will be scrutinized carefully. In addition to organization, sentence structure, and word usage, form and neatness as well as content will be considered in evaluating your book review. I stress personal honesty in the preparation of these reviews. All written work must be your own unless you indicate otherwise. If you use the words of the author or of another authority, these should be

enclosed in quotation marks and the source indicated in a footnote. A failure to do this constitutes plagiarism which plainly and simply is intellectual dishonesty. No credit will be given for a plagiarized review.

DUE BEFORE CLASS Jan. 26 (in ink or typed, ONLY FROM THE APPROVED LIST):

TITLE OF BOOK \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL                      NAME                      OF                      AUTHOR**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Last name, First name)

**FULL                      NAME                      OF                      PUBLISHER**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE OF PUBLICATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**COPYRIGHT DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

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***YOUR NAME***

(CAPITAL LETTERS)