

# THE VIETNAM WAR—HISTORY 5430 –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.

In this course students will meet the general learning outcomes of the History Graduate Program. They will become familiar with:

- the history of Vietnam in particular and the Indochina region in general;
- its geography, politics, economics, and ethnicity;
- Vietnam's minority communities, especially the Hmong and Chinese;
- its relations with its neighbors, its place within a broader international context, Vietnamese emigration especially to North America; the prospects for Vietnamese society in the twenty-first century.

Graduate students will also learn:

- appropriate social science terminology and be able to use that language in discussion, tests, and papers;
- improve their skills in critical thinking and evaluation of ideas and information;
- gain facility in acquiring and using information from a multiplicity of sources;
- gain the ability to undertake advanced historical research;
- attain a basic familiarity with historical literature in major and minor fields of study; and
- demonstrate an understanding of historiography and its permutations over time.

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/project than undergraduate students taking History 4430.

**[2] 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
Research paper	25 percent
Final	25 percent

Map exercise and reading quiz(zes)

25 percent

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.

**[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.

**[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 one of the most important, class sessions.

### [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.
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Jan. 19	Intro to report topics, library resources Historical geography of Indochina and Southeast Asia. Boettcher, FORWARD.	
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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; Paper titles due before class.	
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Feb. 2	MAP QUIZ DUE BEFORE CLASS; Review Boettcher, Ch 1-3 French colonial period.	Early modern history of Indochina
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Feb. 9	First Indochina War; America and the World, 1945-50; 4-5;	Boettcher, Ch.
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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] RESEARCH PAPER** A research paper about the Vietnam War of a minimum of ten typewritten pages is required of graduate students. Titles due before class Jan. 26; bibliography due before class Feb. 16; reports due before class April 5.

I would like you to prepare a **CRITICAL** and **COMPARATIVE** biographical research paper. Pick one historical figure and then compare and contrast biographical and autobiographical books and articles about that person. Possible personalities include Emperor Bao Dai, Presidents Ho Chi Minh or Ngo Dinh Diem, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, Paul Doumer, or any of the American Presidents, Secretaries of State, or Generals heavily involved with Vietnam [F. D. Roosevelt, Truman, John Foster Dulles, Dean Rusk, Eisenhower, Edward Lansdale, Archimedes Patti, William Westmoreland, L.B. Johnson, McGeorge Bundy, Robert S. McNamara, J.F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger]. You will need to get started early on this project in order to get unusual materials by Ingram Library's interlibrary loan service, which is at no cost to you but for which there is a significant lag time. **The topic for the report is due Jan. 26 [tear off form below]; a bibliography of sources you may be consulting is due Feb. 16 [typed double space]; and the paper itself April 5.**

If the report is turned in after the beginning of class on 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.

Under no circumstances can papers be submitted electronically or by FAX as these mechanisms are unreliable. If you wish to leave something for the professor, it is best to do so in an envelope with his name on it that is left in his mailbox in the History Department office. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT THE PROFESSOR TO RECEIVE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DOOR. IT MAY NEVER BE SEEN BY THE PROFESSOR.**

Please be sure the print of your paper 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.

Please detach and turn in this sheet before class on Jan. 26, 2012 (in ink or typed):

The title/topic of myr research paper is:

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***YOUR NAME***

(CAPITAL LETTERS)