

GRADUATE SEMINAR ON THE VIETNAM WAR— HISTORY 6685

FALL SEMESTER 2007
Wednesday 5:30 to 8 PM
Dr. Goldstein
Biology Bldg. Rm. 144

[1] Learning Outcomes:

This is a graduate seminar about the Vietnam War which introduces students to a critical, historical approach to the subject. 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. You will also become familiar with the historiography of the Vietnam War.

In addition to gaining a critical exposure to interpretations about this war, each student will be required to learn basic techniques of primary source historical research and writing.

In addition to these two major emphases, this course differs significantly from the regular History 5430 curriculum in that there is substantially more assigned reading required, especially in primary sources.

[2] Assessment Procedures and Grading Policies: 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. The final will be given at the time specified by the Registrar, Wednesday, December 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Biology 144..

Each student must do a book review, details to be provided. Grades will be determined as follows:

Mid-term	25 percent
Research project	25 percent
Final (Wednesday, Dec. 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm).	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.

[3] Meetings: The class will meet on Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dates are August 15 through December 12, 2007. No class Wed. Nov. 21 [Thanksgiving break].

[4] Office Hours: Office hours will be held in TLC Room 3207 on Wednesdays, immediately after class, from 8:10 to 9:30 p.m.; on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:50 to 6:00 p.m; and by appointment. Students who have questions, concerns about their performance in class or on tests, or would like simply to confer should take it upon themselves to see the professor. It is strongly advised that you make an appointment in advance, to insure that the professor does not already have another appointment with other students or faculty. If you have any problems or questions, please do not hesitate to come by TLC Room 3207 or telephone at 678-839-6034 or 678-839-6508.

[5] 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.

[6] Textbooks and Other Required Materials

There are two required texts for this course:

Boettcher, VIETNAM: THE VALOR AND THE SORROW. Little Brown, 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, Wednesday, Aug. 22. Please do not put your name on these blue books. **THERE WILL ALSO BE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF HANDOUTS PASSED OUT IN THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING THESE MATERIALS.**

[7] 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 one-day-a week 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 (c) a positive attitude shown by an absence of cuts and lateness can work to raise a student's letter grade in borderline grading situations.

[8] 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.” 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 a positive learning environment in the classroom.

[9] Tentative Class Schedule

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

WEEK OF:

DATE:	TOPIC:	ASSIGNMENTS:
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Aug. 14	Intro to course, library resources, historiography of Vietnam War, Historical geography of Indochina and Southeast Asia.	
Aug. 22	Boettcher, FORWARD; introduction to Indochinese ethnicity, religion, linguistics, culture; introduction to assigned readings and library resources MAP QUIZ DUE BEFORE CLASS	
Aug. 29	Early modern history of Indochina Boettcher, Ch 1-3 French colonial period Book review title due before Class.	
Sept. 12 (review)	French colonial period, French/ Indochina War	Boettcher, Ch. 1-3
Sept. 19 UGLY AMERICAN	America and the World, 1945-50; Kennedy and Commitment	Boettcher, Ch. 4-5;
Sept. 26	Kennedy and Commitment (continued);	MIDTERM EXAM
Oct. 3	The Air War, 1961-68	Boettcher, Ch. 6; Tilford, “Set Up”
Oct. 10	The Air War (continued)	
Oct. 17	“Tet” and Its Impact; Johnson’s Decisions of 1968: The Land War	Boettcher, Ch. 7-8
Oct. 24	“Tet” (concluded)	
Oct. 31	The Air War, 1969-71 (concluded); The Land War	Boettcher, Ch. 6-8(review)

Nov. 7 Boettcher, Ch. 6-8(review)
The Land War

Nov. 14 Protest Movements—Film: “The War at Home”;
Boettcher, Ch. 9
RESEARCH PROJECT DUE BEFORE CLASS

Nov. 21: No class; Thanksgiving break

Nov. 28 Legacies of the War, Third Indochina War; Goldstein, Indochina War on
Campus”

Dec. 5 Review April 19 assignments

Dec. 12 **FINAL EXAM** Wednesday, December 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Biology
144..