

VIET NAM: WAR, PEACE, AND LEGACY

Peace Studies/Political Science 355 – Spring 2018

Mondays, 7:00pm – 9:50pm

Beckman Hall 205

Course Description

Beyond the controversial U.S. military intervention in Vietnam, this course seeks to understand the historical formations and transitions of what today is officially called the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. When the French began their colonial rule over Vietnam in 1858 it was not a cohesive nation-state with a “traditional Vietnamese identity”; instead it is better to speak of different Vietnams in a constant process of constructing its own historical narratives. From a millennium of Chinese control, and a tripartite division under various military lordships, to a unified country under Gia Long and its own colonial expansion; the story of the U.S. replacing French colonial rule becomes much more intricate. Understanding these complex and overlapping identities/alliances of the people of Southeast Asia will give students a broad historical understanding to contextualize French colonialism, the rise of the communist resistance under Ho Chi Minh, and the eventual U.S. military intervention. This course strives to offer a variety of perspectives on the causes of war in Vietnam, the experiences of those who fought, and how the legacy of the war shapes U.S. and Vietnamese societies today. From historical accounts, diplomatic history, combat memoirs, war films, and the process of constructing memories of war, students will gain a deep comprehension of Vietnam’s fascinating history. Ultimately, the course Viet Nam: War, Peace, and Legacy will challenge students emotionally and intellectually to understand the true costs of war, its root causes, and long-lasting consequences beyond 1965-1973.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Construct a coherent and historically accurate narrative of the evolution of Vietnam from a millennium of Chinese rule, through French Colonialism, the U.S. War, and its legacy today
- Understand the impact of French colonialism on Vietnamese society
- Describe the conditions of the rise of Ho Chi Minh as a force of colonial resistance
- Comprehend competing geo-political strategies of the U.S., France, China, USSR, Communist/non-Communist Vietnam in the context of the Cold War and the Geneva negotiations
- Identify historical opportunities where different paths other than war were possible
- Empathize with all those affected by the horrors of war on all sides of the conflict
- Make judgments concerning the impacts US resistance to war at home and the legacy of those who both fought and refused to fight
- Complete a final project that shares with others a unique experience of the Vietnam War

Instructor: John R. Emery
Email: jemery@chapman.edu

Office Hours: Mondays. 6-7pm
Office Location: Roosevelt Hall

Required Texts:

Ehrhart, W.D. (1983) *Vietnam-Perkasie* 2nd ed. University of Massachusetts Press ISBN-13: 978-0870239571.

Goscha, Christopher (2016) *Vietnam: A New History* Basic Books ISBN-13: 978-0465094363.

Gottschang Turner, Karen & Phan Tranh Hao (1998) *Even the Women Must Fight: Memories of War from North Vietnam* Wiley Press. ISBN-13: 978-0471327233.

Lembcke, Jerry (1998) *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory, and the Legacy of Vietnam* NYU Press ISBN-13: 978-0814751473.

Statler, Kathryn C (2007) *Replacing France: The Origins of American Intervention in Vietnam* University Press of Kentucky ISBN-13: 978-0813193304.

Grading

Attendance/Participation/Quizzes 25%

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam 25%

Final Project 30%

Quizzes will be given in the first 10 minutes of each class and makeup quizzes will not be accepted (if you are late you may not take the quiz). Each student will have their lowest quiz score dropped at the end of the semester. Additionally, each student may replace their second lowest quiz by attending various events/lectures throughout the semester and completing a short write-up.

*****BRING YOUR BOOKS TO CLASS*****

Please be sure to bring whichever books were assigned for that day to class, as we will be referencing them and it will count toward your participation points

Weekly Course Schedule

January 29: Introduction

Introduction to Course and Each Other

LECTURE: The Many Different Vietnams (1st C. BCE through 1887)

FILM: *Hearts and Minds*

Instructor: John R. Emery
Email: jemery@chapman.edu

Office Hours: Mondays. 6-7pm
Office Location: Roosevelt Hall

February 5: French Colonialism

Readings: Goscha: 62-72 (French Colonialism); 98-105 (Phan Boi Chau); 123-137 (Failed Colonial Democracy); 182-190 (WWII).

Statler: 1-11 (Introduction).

French Colonialism Excerpts Provided in Blackboard

FILM: *Ken Burns Vietnam: Episode 1 "D  j   Vu"* (Excerpt)

February 12: Ho Chi Minh, August Revolution, and Dien Bien Phu

Readings: Goscha: 137-149 (Ho Chi Minh); 190-200 (August Revolution); 249-272 (The First Indochina War/Geneva).

Statler: 15-21 (Truman Aids French); 25-33 (Korea Connection & Vietnamese National Army);

French Colonialism Excerpts Provided in Blackboard

EXERCISE: Group Presentations on Vietnamese nationalist leaders of the early 1900s

FILM: *Dien Bien Phu*

February 19: NO CLASS PRESIDENT'S DAY

February 26: Geneva, Creation of South Vietnam, & Ngo Dinh Diem

Readings: Statler: 85-114 (Negotiating Toward Geneva); 117-153 (Diem Experiment); 251-258 (Dealing with Diem).

Goscha: 273-303 (A Tale of Two Republics).

EXERCISE: Role-Playing activity of the 1954 Geneva negotiations over Vietnam

March 5: Fall of Diem, Gulf of Tonkin, & Commencement of US Hostilities

Readings: Goscha: ADD 309-313 314-318 (Ngo Dinh Diem's Threat to Indirect American Containment); 319-331 (From Indirect to Direct Interventions)

Marciano: 77-86 (President Johnson & The Escalation of War) Provided in Blackboard

Gottschang Turner: 51-69 (Chapter 3)

FILM: *Gulf of Tonkin & LBJ* (Excerpt)

Review for Midterm in Class

March 12: *MIDTERM EXAMS*****

March 19: SPRING BREAK

March 26: Operations: Rolling Thunder, Barrel Roll, & Steel Tiger

Readings: Please Watch Over Break--*Battlefield Vietnam: Operation Rolling Thunder* Available at: <https://youtu.be/OO41C0larvs>

Gottschang Turner: 93-116 (Chapter 5)

Ehrhart: ix-xiii (Foreword); 1-88 (Chapters 1-13)

FILM: *The Cu Chi Tunnels*

April 2: Counterinsurgency, Tet Offensive, Operation Menu, & My Lai

Readings: Goscha: 331-333 (The Tet Offensive of 1968)

Ehrhart: 192-212 (Chapters 30-33)

Instructor: John R. Emery
Email: jemery@chapman.edu

Office Hours: Mondays. 6-7pm
Office Location: Roosevelt Hall

EXERCISE: Debating soldiers as heroes or murderers: Vietnam, memory, and war crimes.
FILM: *Four Hours in My Lai*

April 9: Kent State, The Pentagon Papers & Phan Thị Kim Phúc OOnt

Readings: Ehrhart: 95-98 (Chapter 15)

Readings Below Available via Blackboard

Pentagon Papers Timeline: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman/timeline/>

Pentagon Papers–Secret War:

<http://edition.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1996/analysis/back.time/9606/28/index.shtml>

Pentagon Papers–Race to Publish:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/20/us/pentagon-papers-post.html>

2011 Declassified Pentagon Papers:

Browse some of the papers here: <https://www.archives.gov/research/pentagon-papers>

FILM: *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers*

April 16: Soldier and Civilian Resistance to the Vietnam War

Lembcke: 1-10 (Introduction); 27-48 (Chapter 3); 49-70 (Chapter 4)

FILM: *Sir, No Sir!*

April 23: Vietnamization and the Paris Peace Accords

Readings: Goscha: 333-339 (The Paris Accords)

Marciano: 103-125 (Chapter 5) Provided in Blackboard

EXERCISE: Group presentations on contesting histories of “Vietnamization”

April 30: Fall of Saigon, War Crimes, Healing, and the Aftermath

Readings: Ehrhart: 272-311 (Chapters 44-53)

Gottschang Turner: 167-179 (Chapter 9)

FILM: *Ken Burns Vietnam: Episode 10 “The Weight of Memory”* (Excerpt)

May 7: Reflecting on the Legacy of Vietnam Today

Readings: Goscha: 440-461 (Conclusion)

Gottschang Turner: 181-189 (Epilogue)

Lembcke: 183-188 (Chapter 10)

FILM: *Bombies*

Review for Final Exam

May 14: *FINAL EXAMS*****

Chapman Academic Integrity Policies

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the University's Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions up to and including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's policy on Academic Integrity at: www.chapman.edu/academics/academic-integrity.

Instructor: John R. Emery
Email: jemery@chapman.edu

Office Hours: Mondays. 6-7pm
Office Location: Roosevelt Hall

Student Psychological and Counseling Services

Student Psychological Counseling Services Student psychological counseling services provides psychotherapy to students at Chapman University and is staffed with licensed and professional psychologists, counselors and counselor interns. If you feel that any of your students need such counseling, please ask them to contact the office at (714) 997-6778 or spcs@chapman.edu.

Chapman Disability Services Information

<https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/disability-services/index.aspx>

Chapman University is committed to making its educational and employment opportunities accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. By providing full access to qualified students with disabilities, the University demonstrates its belief that the community will benefit from the skills and talents of these individuals. As an equal opportunity employer, the University does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the hiring, promotion, and retention of otherwise qualified faculty and staff. In this regard, Chapman University has implemented the following policies:

- Chapman University strictly prohibits any form of discrimination on the basis of an individual's disability.
- Chapman University offers individualized assessment and reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities.

These policies apply to every facet of the University's operations, including but not limited to admissions, academic requirements, financial aid, housing, or any other school-administered program or service.

Chapman University has developed and maintains programs and resources to monitor and to assure compliance with these policies. These include Disability Services, an ADA Compliance Officer, Equal Opportunity Officer, and an ADA Committee. These resources are designed to offer individualized assessment and to provide accommodations in the most integrated setting appropriate. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or visit <https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/disability-services/> if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course."

The Assistant Director of Disability Services, who is a standing member of the University's ADA Committee, administers these policies. Information concerning these policies is maintained in Disability Services. Summaries and references to these policies are provided in the University's application and admissions materials, and its Student Handbook, as well as its Faculty manual and Staff and Administrative Handbook. Individuals can also obtain information about these policies through the University's ADA Compliance Officer and Equal Opportunity Officer.

Chapman University's Equity and Diversity Policy

<http://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/eoo.aspx>

Chapman University is committed to providing an environment which is free of any form of harassment and discrimination based upon an individual's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable state or federal law, so that all members of the community are treated at all times with dignity and respect. It is the University's policy, therefore, to prohibit all forms of such harassment or discrimination among University faculty, students, staff, and administration.

The University's administration, faculty, staff, and students are each responsible for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to work, study, learning, and for cooperating with the University officials who investigate

Instructor: John R. Emery
Email: jemery@chapman.edu

Office Hours: Mondays. 6-7pm
Office Location: Roosevelt Hall

allegations of policy violations. Harassment and discrimination, in any form prohibited by this policy, impede the university's mission to provide an education of distinction in a dignified and respectful learning environment. It is the duty of every member of the faculty, staff, and administration to assure compliance with this policy by promptly reporting allegations of policy violations to the University's Equal Opportunity and Diversity Officer. Students are also strongly encouraged to report any alleged violations of this policy, and may do so by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Officer, the Dean of Students or one of the Title IX Coordinators listed below. The University will strive to review any charges in a confidential, sensitive, and expeditious manner.

In addition to, or in lieu of the procedures set forth in this policy, any individual who feels he or she has been subjected to unlawful harassment or discrimination may contact the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the United States Equal Opportunity Commission, or the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.