

HH3012 – THE UNITED STATES AND THE INDOCHINA WARS

Academic Year	2017-2018	Semester	2
Course Coordinator	Asst. Prof. Ngoei Wen-Qing		
Course Code	HH3012		
Course Title	The United States and the Indochina Wars		
Pre-requisites	None		
No of AUs	3		
Contact Hours	39 (Weekly Seminar of 3 hours)		

Course Aims

This course will examine, analyze and critique the causes, conduct, and consequences of the American involvement in Vietnam from the era of colonial Southeast Asia, through World War II, the Cold War and the ongoing US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. You will learn about the legacies of the Vietnam Wars on US foreign relations, international politics and warfare, and study major works and primary sources that highlight not just American but also the Vietnamese actors and other regional players. Through the prism of US-Vietnam relations, you will also assess how great power politics intersected with post-1945 decolonization and nation-building in Southeast Asia, and review its impact on current regional and international affairs.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Identify and critique the key arguments of major works (i.e. secondary sources) in the field of US-Indochina relations history.
2. Explain and appraise a given source's historical context and significance in US-Vietnam relations.
3. Produce work (oral and written) that employs key analytical approaches and major events in the history of US-Vietnam relations.
4. Describe how the history of US-Indochina relations is linked to the regional history of Southeast Asia (Singapore in particular) and the global Cold War.

Course Content

This course examines the origins of the conflict in Indochina, the American involvement in the war, the nature and course of the military operations, strains in U.S. civil-military relations, the social upheavals in the United States, reactions and diplomatic moves among states in Southeast Asia, the impact of the war on Vietnamese society, the withdrawal and peace negotiations, and the lessons and legacies of the war on contemporary affairs.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	Course LO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes	Weighting	Team/Individual
1. In-Class Presentation and Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 7, 9	20%	Team and Individual
2. Book Review	1, 3, 4	3, 7, 11	10%	Individual
3. Mid-Term Essay Assignment	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 3, 5, 7, 11	20%	Individual
4. Final Examination	1, 2, 3, 4	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9	50%	Individual
Total			100%	

In-Class Presentation and Participation – 20%:

At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to a team of two to three. You will work in this team to prepare a 7-minute presentation. The presentations will be reviews of the book chapters or articles assigned that week for reading. The presentation should articulate the main argument of the assigned readings, explain the historical significance of that argument (according to the author), and highlight the major examples the author employs to make this argument. Your presentation will be graded on its effectiveness in communicating information from the readings in interesting and creative ways to engage your peers. All group members will receive the same grade.

Your participation in the seminars makes up another component of this 20% of your overall grade. Participation is assessed by your regular and informed contributions to the discussions of each week's assigned readings (even those readings that you have not been assigned to present on). You should study each week's assigned readings for the main argument of each piece, the historical significance of this argument in US-Indochina relations, and the major examples used to make this argument. You will be assessed in part by how well you communicate your views and engage your peers. Your participation is assessed individually.

Book Review – 10%

You will review one book from a list of major works on US-Indochina relations provided by the professor. Your 800-word book review must detail the main arguments of the book, placing it in conversation with what you have learned thus far about US-Indochina relations, and assessing how it has contributed to our knowledge about US involvement in the Indochina Wars. Your book review will be assessed by how effectively you communicate your ideas in written form and how well you have applied your existing knowledge from the course materials to evaluate the contribution of the book to the history of US-Indochina relations.

Mid-Term Essay Assignment – 20%

This essay assignment is assessed in part on how well it utilizes all the assigned readings (up till the recess break) and primary sources so far encountered. Your essay will also be evaluated based

on how well you communicate your over-arching thesis in response to the question. You will receive an individual grade.

Final Examination – 50%

The final examination is an open-book assessment. You will be informed of what reference materials you are allowed to bring into the examination hall. The question in this exam will assess how well you utilize the assigned readings and primary sources encountered throughout the semester.

Formative feedback

- In-class Presentation: Students will receive feedback on their presentation (as well as a graded result).
- Participation: Students will receive verbal feedback on their participation over the course of the semester.
- Book Review: Students will receive written comments on their responses (as well as a graded result)
- Essay Assignment: Students receive verbal feedback and written comments on their essays (as well as a graded result)

Learning and Teaching approach

Approach	How does this approach support students in achieving the learning outcomes?
Seminar discussion	Interactive discussion provides opportunities for a detailed engagement of reading material and the honing of critical and analytical thinking about the major interpretations of seminal events and primary sources in US-Indochina relations history.
Student Presentations	As a team, students will present their summary and critique of the reading material to the whole class. This supports peer-learning, the development of critical reading and presentation skills, as well as exposes students to collaborative work (in teams).
Book Review	Students will write a summary and critique of a major work in US-Indochina relations history from outside of the required weekly readings. This supports the individual student’s independent engagement of key arguments of major works (i.e. secondary sources) in this sub-field.
Essay Assignments	Students will write essays that employ primary and secondary sources to assess and compare major historical interpretations of US involvement in the Indochina Wars.
Final Examination	Students will write essays that employ primary and secondary sources to assess and compare major historical interpretations of US involvement in the Indochina Wars.

Reading and References

Texts subject to changes.

- Michael J. Allen, *Until the Last Man Comes Home: POWs, MIAs and the Unending Vietnam War* (UNC Press, 2009)
- Christian G. Appy, *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides* (2003, 2004)
- Beth Bailey and Richard Immerman, eds., *Understanding the US Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan* (NYU Press, 2015)
- Mark Phillip Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950* (2000)
- Mark Bradley and Marilyn Young, eds., *Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars: Local, National and Transnational Perspectives* (Oxford UP, 2008)
- Robert Brigham, *Iraq, Vietnam and the Limits of American Power* (Public Affairs, 2008)
- Robert Brigham, *Guerrilla Diplomacy: The NLF's Foreign Relations and the Vietnam War* (Cornell UP, 1998).
- Jessica Chapman, *Cauldron of Resistance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States and 1950s South Vietnam* (Cornell UP, 2013)
- Kenton Clymer, *The United States and Cambodia, 1969-2000: A Troubled Relationship* (Routledge, 2013).
- Robert Dean, *Imperial Brotherhood: Gender and the Making of Cold War Foreign Policy* (U Massachusetts Press, 2001)
- George Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975* (McGraw-Hill, 2001, 4th edition)
- Jane Hamilton-Merrit, *Tragic Mountains: The Hmong, the Americans and the Secret Wars for Laos, 1942-1992* (Indiana UP, 1999)
- Michael H. Hunt, *A Vietnam War Reader: A Documentary History From American and Vietnamese Perspectives* (2010)
- Seth Jacobs, *America's Miracle Man in Vietnam: Ngo Dinh Diem, Religion, Race, and US Intervention in Southeast Asia* (Duke UP, 2005).
- Seth Jacobs, *The Universe Unraveling: US Policy and Cold War Laos* (Cornell UP, 2012)
- Joshua Kurlantzick, *A Great Place to Have a War: America in Laos and the Birth of a Military CIA* (Simon & Schuster, 2017)
- Mark Atwood Lawrence, *Assuming the Burden: Europe and America's Commitment to Vietnam* (UC Press, 2005)
- Fredrik Logevall, *Embers of War* (Random House, 2012) and *Choosing War* (UC Press, 1999)
- David G. Marr, *Vietnamese Tradition on Trial* (UC Press, 1984), chapter 1 "The Colonial Setting"
- Robert McMahon, *Limits of Empire: The United States and Southeast Asia after World War II* (Columbia UP, 1999)
- Edward G. Miller, *Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States and the Fate of South Vietnam* (Harvard, 2013)
- Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, *Hanoi's War: An International History of the War for Peace in Vietnam* (2012)
- Viet Thanh Nguyen, *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (Harvard UP, 2016)
- Sophie Quinn-Judge, *Ho Chi Minh: The Missing Years, 1919-1941* (UC Press, 2002).
- Andrew Rotter, *Path to Vietnam: Origins of the American Commitment to Southeast Asia*

(Cornell UP, 1989)

- Jonathan Schell, *The Real War: The Classic Reporting on the Vietnam War* (1967, 1988)
- Marilyn Young, *The Vietnam Wars* (Harper, 1991).

Assorted articles include:

- Robert Dean, "Masculinity as Ideology: John F. Kennedy and the Domestic Politics of Foreign Policy," *Diplomatic History* (1998).
- Simeon Man, "Aloha, Vietnam: Race and Empire in Hawaii's Vietnam War", *American Quarterly* 67 (4), Nov 2015.
- Wen-Qing Ngoei, "Domino Logic of the Darkest Moment," *Journal of American East Asian Relations* (Sept 2014); "A Wide Anti-Communist Arc: Britain, ASEAN and Nixon's Triangular Diplomacy," *Diplomatic History* (March 2017).

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all lectures and tutorials punctually and submit all scheduled assignments by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for sessions they have missed. You are expected to participate in all tutorial discussions.

Absenteeism

This course requires you to be in class to contribute to discussions and team presentations. These in-class activities make up a significant portion of your course grade. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include either falling sick supported by a medical certificate, or participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. There will be no make-up opportunities for team presentations.

Late Policy

Late written work will be penalized. The penalty is active once the piece is 1 hour late. At this point, the essay will immediately lose one letter grade. Following, the essay will be docked a letter grade for each day (i.e. 24 hours) it remains overdue. For example, an essay that is 2 days late that should have scored an A (if it had been on time), will receive no higher than a C grade.

Extensions may be granted in some special cases, but not within one week of the deadline.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Universities consider using the works of others without properly acknowledging that use (that is, copying) to be "cheating." In this course, such behavior will result in a score of zero on the assignment in question. In accordance with school policy, I will also report egregious cases to the university to be placed on record in your academic file. Learn how to cite the work of others properly. If in doubt, ask.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core

of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Phone	Email
Ngoei Wen-Qing	HSS-05-20	65922633	wqngoei@ntu.edu.sg

Planned Weekly Schedule ** (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Introduction/ French Colonialism	1	Marr, Young/ Seminar Discussion
2	The Vietnamese Revolution and the First Indochina War	1, 2, 3, 4	Bradley/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
3	Dominoes and the Origins of US Involvement in Vietnam	1, 2, 3, 4	Rotter, Lawrence, Ngoei/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
4	The Two Vietnams	1, 2, 3, 4	Chapman, Jacobs, Brigham, H. Nguyen/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
5	"Viet-Not" in Indochina	1, 2, 3, 4	Jacobs, Clymer, McMahon/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
6	War!	1, 2, 3, 4	Dean, Logevall, Schell, Appy/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
7	Home Fires	1, 2, 3, 4	Hunt, Appy/

			Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations.
8	Aftermaths and Remains	1, 2, 3, 4	V. Nguyen, Allen/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
9	Fallout	1, 2, 3, 4	Clymer, Hamilton- Merritt/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations
10	Blue Collar and Buddha/ Bombies/ Hearts and Minds	1, 2, 3, 4	Film and Discussion
11	The Region Around	1, 2, 3, 4	Man, McMahan, Ngoei/ Lecture; Tutorial Discussion; Student Presentations
12	First Blood	1, 2, 3, 4	Allen/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations.
13	Vietnam in the War on Terror	1, 2, 3, 4	Brigham, Bailey and Immerman/ Seminar Discussion; Student Presentations