

**HH 3012 (Semester 1, 2019-2020) DRAFT**  
**The United States and the Vietnam Wars**  
**Seminars/ Day, Venue and Time: Wednesdays, LHS-TR+42, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**Dr. Ngoei Wen-Qing**  
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 (Allow 24 hours turnaround)

Office: HSS-05-20  
 Hours: Wednesday, 2.00 to 4.00 pm  
 (Appointment by email ONLY)

**Course Materials**

There is no textbook for this course, but a good source to accompany the detailed weekly readings is:  
**Mark Atwood Lawrence, *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History* (Oxford UP, 2010).**

**ASSESSMENTS (DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON NTU LEARN BY WEEK 3)**

Component	Weight	Brief Description
Participation	20%	Students having read the assigned works will be called on to discuss and critique the readings in relation to the themes of the week.
Midterm Essay	25%	Students will write a <b>800-word op-ed</b> that utilizes assigned readings to critique a primary/secondary source, in this case, a popular filmic narrative of the US and the Vietnam Wars: Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's <i>The Vietnam War</i> (PBS, 2017). <b>The op-ed will be accompanied by an annotated bibliography of not more than 800-words.</b> <b>Due: 25 September 2019</b>
Proposal of Final Paper	15%	<b>On 23 Oct</b> , students will email each other their preliminary proposal (200 words) for their Final Paper and exchange feedback <b>in class time</b> . Instructor will give consolidated feedback within 2 weeks following the exchange.
Final Paper	40%	Students will write a <b>two-part essay of 2,000 words altogether</b> concerned with how to tell the story of the US and the Vietnam Wars. <b>Due: 22 Nov 2019, 5:00pm</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Week	Topic	Readings / Activities
1. (14 Aug)	Introduction/ French Colonialism and the Vietnamese Revolutionary War	George Herring, "America and Vietnam: The Unending War," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (1991): 104-119
2. (21 Aug)	Transnational Vietnamese Nationalism and the US	Mark Bradley, <i>Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950</i> (UNC Press, 2000) [Introduction, Chapters 1-3] ( <b>E-book.</b> ) <b>OPTIONAL:</b> Mark Atwood Lawrence, "The Road to Revolution" in <i>The Vietnam War: A Concise International History</i> (Oxford, 2008), 7-26
3. (28 Aug)	Dominoes and the Origins of US Involvement in Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Rotter, "The Triangular Route to Vietnam: The United States, Great Britain and Southeast Asia, 1945-1950," <i>The International History Review</i> (1984), 404-423.</li> <li>• Mark Atwood Lawrence, "Transnational Coalition-Building and the Making of the Cold War in Indochina, 1947-1949," <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2002), 453-480.</li> <li>• WQ Ngoei, "Domino Logic of the Darkest Moment: The Fall of Singapore, the Atlantic Echo Chamber, and 'Chinese Penetration' in US Cold War policy toward Southeast Asia," <i>Journal of American-East Asian Relations</i> (2014): 215-245.</li> </ul>
4. (4 Sep)	The Many Vietnams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Brigham, "The Maquis: Origins of the NLF and its Diplomatic Front" in <i>Guerrilla Diplomacy</i>, 1-18 (<b>Googlebooks</b>)</li> <li>• Jessica Chapman, "Staging Democracy: South Vietnam's 1955 Referendum to depose Bao Dai," <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2006): 671-703</li> <li>• Pierre Asselin, "'We Don't Want a Munich': Hanoi's Diplomatic Strategy, 1965-1968." <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2012): 547-581</li> </ul>

5. (11 Sep)	War!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert Dean, "Masculinity as Ideology: JFK and the Domestic Politics of Foreign Policy," <i>Diplomatic History</i> (1998): 29-62.</li> <li>Fredrik Logevall, "Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam," <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> (2004): 100-112.</li> <li>Jonathan Schell, "The Village of Ben Suc" from <i>The Real War: The Classic Reporting on the Vietnam War</i>, 59-188.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>In-class viewing (for Midterm Essay):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, <i>The Vietnam War</i> Episode 1: "Déjà Vu".</li> </ul>
6. (18 Sep)	Home Fires (Burning Abroad)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barbara Tischler, "The Antiwar Movement" in Young and Buzzanco, ed., <i>Companion to the Vietnam War</i>, 384-402.</li> <li>Robert K. Brigham, "Families" in <i>ARVN: Life and Death in the South Vietnamese Army</i> (University Press of Kansas, 2006), 109-130.</li> <li>Lien-Hang Nguyen, "Revolutionary Circuits: Toward Internationalizing America in the World," <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2015): 411-422</li> </ul>
7. (25 Sep)	Indochina and the Vietnam Wars  <b>*Midterm Essay Due*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seth Jacobs, "'A Long Country Inhabited by Lotus Eaters': Washington Encounters Laos" in <i>The Universe Unraveling: American Foreign Policy in Cold War Laos</i> (Cornell, 2012): 21-49.</li> <li>Kenton Clymer, "A Casualty of War: The Break in American Relations with Cambodia, 1965," in Marilyn Young and Robert Buzzanco, ed., <i>A Companion to the Vietnam War</i> (Blackwell, 2002), 198-228</li> </ul>
<b>RECESS WEEK</b>		
8. (9 Oct)	Fallout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clymer, "Jimmy Carter, Human Rights and Cambodia," <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2003): 245-278</li> <li>Alfred McCoy, "America's Secret War in Laos, 1955-1975," in Young and Buzzanco, ed., <i>Companion to the Vietnam War</i> (Blackwell, 2002): 283-313</li> <li>Louisa Schein and Va-Megn Thoj, "Gran Torino's Boys and Men with Guns: Hmong Perspectives," <i>Hmong Studies Journal</i> (2009)</li> </ul>
9. (16 Oct)	Remains and Remembering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael J. Allen, "'Sacrilige of a Strange Contemporary Kind': The Unknown Soldier and the Imagined Community after the Vietnam War," <i>History and Memory</i> 23, no. 2 (2011): 90-131.</li> <li>Daphne Berdahl, "Voices at the Wall: Discourses of Self, History and National Identity at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," <i>History and Memory</i> (1994): 88-124</li> <li>Quan Tue Tran, "Remember the Boat People Exodus: A Tale of Two Memorials," <i>Journal of Vietnamese Studies</i> (2012): 80-121.</li> </ul>
10. (23 Oct)	<b>No assigned readings. Instructions for Final Paper Proposal and Feedback Exchange available from Week 3.</b>	
11. (30 Oct)	The Wider Region/ The Global Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simeon Man, "Aloha Vietnam: Race and Empire in Hawaii's Vietnam War," <i>American Quarterly</i> (2015): 1085-1108.</li> <li>Sean Fear, "Saigon Goes Global: South Vietnam's Quest for International Legitimacy in the Age of Détente," <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2017): 428-455.</li> <li>WQ Ngoei, <i>Arc of Containment</i>, chapter 5 (<b>e-book NTU Library</b>)</li> </ul>
12. (6 Nov)	What Mean Expendable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H. Bruce Franklin, "The POW/MIA Myth," <i>The Atlantic</i>, Dec 1991, 45-81</li> <li>Frank Sweeney, "'What Mean Expendable?': Myth, Ideology and Meaning in <i>First Blood</i> and <i>Rambo</i>," <i>Journal of American Culture</i> (1999): 63-69.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>In-class viewing.</b></p> <p>George P. Cosmatos, dir. <i>Rambo: First Blood Part II</i> (1985); 96 min</p>
13. (13 Nov)	The Vietnam War and the 21st Century & Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert McMahon, "Contested Memory: The Vietnam War and American Society, 1975-2001" <i>Diplomatic History</i> (2002): 159-184.</li> <li>Andrew Krepinevich, "Iraq &amp; Vietnam: Déjà Vu All Over Again?" <i>Center for Strategic and Budget Assessments</i> (2004):</li> <li>Jeffrey Record, "The Use and Abuse of History: Munich, Vietnam and Iraq," <i>Survival</i> (2007): 163-180.</li> </ul>