

History 305.02: The Vietnam War

CRN # 11244

TuTh 9:30-10:45 AM

Buckman Hall 334

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Prof. Robert Saxe
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Office hours: M 10-11; T 8:30-9:30
or by appointment

Required texts for purchase:

William J. Duiker. *Sacred War: Nationalism and Revolution in a Divided Vietnam*

Michael Herr. *Dispatches*.

David Hunt. *Vietnam's Southern Revolution: From Peasant Insurrection to Total War*

James S. Olson and Randy Roberts. *My Lai: A Brief History with Documents*.

Andrew J. Rotter. *Light at the End of the Tunnel: A Vietnam War Anthology* (3rd edition)

Requirements for the course include:

- Regular class attendance and alert participation
- Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials and intelligent assessment of audiovisual resources
- One short paper (1000-1200 words)
- One research paper (4000-5000 words)
- One midterm exam
- One final exam

Additional quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short writing assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the assigned texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audio-visual materials. Papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Late work will receive a grade of "F" but will count towards fulfillment of the course requirements. For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential, as are correct forms for endnotes and bibliography. Be certain to use proper form in your papers. Errors of this type will be penalized. If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Computer malfunctions are not

acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness. Always keep a hard copy (a copy on paper) of each draft of your paper. Each paper should have a title page with a meaningful title, your name, and the paper's final word count. All papers should include page numbers.

Thoughtful classroom participation is encouraged and will constitute a portion of the final grade for the course. Discussions of assigned readings, particularly those regarding the analysis of primary sources, are especially important. Two absences are allowed without penalty; any additional absences will result in a lowering of your final grade by 5% of the total for each class missed. Final grades will be based approximately on the following formula for a total of 1000 points: exams, 500 points (250 points each); short paper, 50 points; research paper, 300 points; classroom participation, 150 points. Extra credit will not be permitted. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of legitimate, documented reasons; if you are wondering if your excuse is legitimate, it probably is not. Failure to complete any graded assignment will result in a failing grade for the course. Note that a "W" (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes honor code. Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the college. In your papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else's information/material/ideas without properly citing the source(s) of the information/material/ideas in question). Plagiarism is a violation of the honor code, and will result in a grade of "F" for the course. Consequently, in all your papers, you must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not. Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments. Studying together can be an excellent way to learn, but can (in extreme cases) lead to disconcerting similarities. Extreme instances of similarities in papers may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

Students with special needs regarding testing, etc., should register with the Office of Disability Services and then bring the appropriate paperwork to one of us.

SYLLABUS

The following syllabus indicates which pages are to be read **PRIOR TO** that day's class.

WEEK 1

Aug. 26 Th Vietnam's pre-colonial experience (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 1-11

WEEK 2

Aug. 31 Tu French imperialism (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 11-22

Sept. 02 Th US imperialism (RS)

WEEK 3

Sept. 07 Tu Early Vietnamese nationalism (MD)
Reading: Hunt, 1-28
09 Th Versailles (RS)

WEEK 4

Sept. 14 Tu Efforts at Independence (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 22-89
16 Th US Support of France in the Cold War Context (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 3-33 & 237-268

WEEK 5

Sept. 21 Tu Peace Talks (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 89-94, Rotter, 269-278
23 Th Peace Talks (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 46-60
Short paper due

WEEK 6

Sept. 28 Tu Nation-building: Ho Chi Minh (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 95-123
30 Th Nation-building: Ngo Dinh Diem (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 124-164; Rotter, 35-45 & 145-171

WEEK 7

- Oct. 05 Tu Kennedy, Johnson, & US Escalation (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 61-86, & 101-108
07 Th Kennedy, Johnson, & US Escalation (continued) (RS)
Reading: Herr, 3-166

WEEK 8

- Oct. 12 Tu Popular Protest in Vietnam (MD)
Reading: Hunt, 29-114

14 Th Midterm

WEEK 9

- Oct. 19 Tu Fall Break – No Class
21 Th Popular Protest in the US (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 133-142 & 383-415

WEEK 10

- Oct.. 26 Tu Post-Diem Politics in the South (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 164-184 & 219-250
28 Th The “Southern Revolution” (MD)
Reading: Hunt, 115-211; Rotter, 191-195

WEEK 11

- Nov. 02 Tu The Soldier’s Experience (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 167-260
04 Th The Soldiers’ Experience (continued) (RS)
Reading: Herr, 196-214

WEEK 12

- Nov. 09 Tu Tet (MD)
Reading: Duiker, 185-218; Hunt, 212-223; Rotter, 87-100
11 Th Nixon: Vietnamization & Détente (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 109-132

WEEK 13

Nov. 16Tu Devastation in My Lai (RS)
Reading: Olson & Roberts, **all**; Rotter, 215-233

Nov. 18 Th Devastation in Cambodia and Laos (MD)
Reading: Rotter, 279-308

WEEK 14

Nov. 23 Tu Victory and Restructuring in Vietnam (MD)
Reading: Rotter, 172-190; Duiker, 251-271

25 Th Thanksgiving Break – No Class

WEEK 15

Nov. 30 Tu Defeat (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 309-382

Dec. 02 Th The Legacy of the War: Vietnam (MD)
Reading: Rotter, 416-427

Research Paper Due

WEEK 16

Dec. 07 Tu The Legacy of the War: The US (RS)
Reading: Rotter, 428-451

FINALS WEEK

Dec. 15 W Final Exam (8:30 AM)