

History 310.002
Spring, 2005

The Vietnam War, 1945-1975

Dr. Hopkins

Required reading:

George C. Herring, America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975, 4th Ed.

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

Robert J. McMahon, ed., Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War, 3rd Ed.

Christian G. Appy, Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides

George W. Hopkins, "Historians and the Vietnam War: The Conflict Over Interpretation Continues" on e-reserve. Password: vietnam

This course will intensively study the Vietnam War, 1945-1975. Starting with background on Vietnamese history and culture, the impact of French imperialism, and Japanese occupation during World War II, the course will then focus on France's unsuccessful efforts to reconquer Vietnam, the Cold War and U.S. interests in Southeast Asia and Vietnam, growing U.S. involvement under bipartisan leadership, growing domestic opposition to that involvement, and the results of the U.S. role in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. The course will also focus on key personalities, decisions, and events of the war as well as the military, diplomatic, political, social, and economic implications of those key factors.

Grading will be based on a mid-term examination (25%); a 10-15 page research paper [utilizing a minimum of two journal articles, e.g., Diplomatic History, with other sources] (30%); a final essay examination (35%); and a grade based on possible quizzes and class participation (10%). Lectures will include material not found in the readings and will offer interpretive comments on the topics discussed and the materials read. Examinations will cover lectures, readings, and films utilized in the course. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the material covered and for any changes in assignment or procedure announced in class. No make-up examinations or late papers will be accepted without a valid, verifiable excuse. The success of the course depends on the interest and participation of the student as well as that of the professor.

The Department of History has unanimously adopted the following policy: "The Honor Code of the College of Charleston specifically forbids cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism. A student found guilty of these offenses will receive a failing grade in the course. Additional penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the College at the discretion of the Honor Board. See the College of Charleston Student Handbook for definitions of the offenses." Avoid all of this by doing your own work. You will get an education as well as a grade.

My office is 330 Maybank Hall. I will have office hours [unless other meetings conflict] on MW, 3-4 pm; on TR, 3:15-4 pm; and by appointment. Please feel free to discuss any questions or problems you have with the course. My phone is 953-8103; e-mail is hopkinsg@cofc.edu

Structure of the course: the following topics will be discussed on the days indicated. You should finish the assigned reading **BEFORE** each class to enable you to understand fully lectures and films and to participate constructively in

1/12	Historiography of the Vietnam War: Issues and Viewpoints	Herring, ix-xv; McMahon, xv-14; Duiker, xv-xx and 1-4; Appy, xv-xxvii; Hopkins, "Historians and Vietnam," e-reserve
1/17	Indochina: Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia-Origins and Evolution	Duiker, 4-22.
1/19	Vietnamese Nationalism vs. French Imperialism-Emergence of Ho Chi Minh and Vietnamese Communism	Duiker, 22-42; McMahon, 17-20, then 24-48.
1/24	World War II: Ho and the Vietminh vs. The Japanese [with OSS aid]; the August Revolution [1945] and the Vietnamese Declaration Independence	Duiker, 42-52; McMahon, 21-24; Appy, 38-41.
1/26	Vietnam, China, Korea and the Cold War in Asia; The "Bao Dai Solution" and US Involvement	Duiker, 53-75; Herring, 3-24; McMahon, 49-86; Appy, 35-38.
1-31	Vietminh Defeat French Efforts at Reconquest: Dienbienphu and the Geneva Accords	Duiker, 75-95; Herring, 24-51; McMahon, 87-94, 100-105, and 273-276; Appy, 44-47.
2-2	SEATO, Diem, and "South Vietnam" vs. National Liberation Front and Vietcong;	Duiker, 95-137; Herring, 53-87; McMahon, 94-100, 105-121, 276-288, 356-358; Appy, 47-59, 101-103.
2/7	JFK and Indochina	Duiker, 138-158; Herring, 89-119; McMahon, 123-134 and 137-147; Appy, 60-74, 79-84.
2/9	Dumping Diem; Domestic Discontent	Herring, 119-129; Duiker, 158-164; McMahon, 134-137, 147-157, 358-360; Appy, 74-75.
2/14	MIDTERM EXAM	Bring bluebook to class, put it on table in front
2/16	LBJ and the Gulf of Tonkin	Duiker, 164-166; Herring, 131-147; McMahon, 158-165; Appy, 12-15, 84-98, 112-117.
2/21	Pleiku Pretext, Operation Rolling Thunder and Massive Ground War Escalation: "Americanizing" the War/First Major Public Protest	Duiker, 166-176; Herring, 147-169; McMahon, 165-204, 427-431, 446-450; Appy, 3-5, 9-11, 76-78, 121-127.
2/23	Battle of Ia Orang: NV A vs. USA--film and discussion.	Duiker, 176-179, McMahon, 206-209; Appy, 128-135.
2/28	Intensified Air and Ground War, "Search and Destroy": Operation Cedar Falls; "Pacification," and more Americanization; Military and Diplomatic Stalemate	Herring, 171-204; McMahon, 211-232, 363-377; Appy, 90-94, 135-141, 156-161, 200-212, 243-247.
3/2	Growing Antiwar Movement in the Streets and in Congress: From Protest to Resistance, 1965-1967	Herring, 204-223; McMahon, 209-211, 431-436, 450-459; Appy, 118-121, 142-155, 162-167, 231-237, 257-282.

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3/14	"Bloods": Black Soldiers in Nam	A, 354-370; film and discussion
3/16	Vietnamese Viewpoint	A, 15-21, 41-43, 103-106, 186-187, 190-194, 212-217, 228-231, 247-250, 256-257, 330-331; Duiker, 179-208; McMahon, 287-312.
3/21	Siege of Khe Sanh and the Tet Offensive	Duiker, 208-218; Herring, 202-209; McMahon, 314-316; A, 285-303.
3/23	The Media, The War, and Tet; LBJ Steps Down	Herring, 209-228; McMahon, 317-355; A, 21-25, 304-306, 324-327.
3/28	1968: The Candidates, The War, The Battle of Chicago, the Election	Herring, 229-241; film and discussion; PAPERS DUE!
3/30	Nixon, "Vietnamization [De-Americanization], and "GI Resistance"	Duiker, 219-225; Herring, 242-257; McMahon, 244-271, 362-363, 386-391, 405-413, 439-445; A, 25-27, 167-170, 175-176, 195-199, 217-220, 328-340; e-reserve on "GI Resistance."
4/4	Invasion of Cambodia, Massive Protest, Kent State Massacre, "Pentagon Papers," and "Watergate"	Duiker, 225-232; Herring, 257-271; McMahon, 399-405, 413-425; A, 5-8, 238-243, 377-389, 425-440.
4/6	"Easter Offensive," "Christmas Bombing," Paris Peace Accords, "Peace With Honor," Fall of Saigon	Duiker, 232-250; Herring, 271-299; McMahon, 475-509, then 377-384; A, 393-424, 461-469, 493-511.
4/11	Women and the War, At Home and Overseas	McMahon, 460-466, 520-521; A, 28-31, 106-111, 170-175, 177-183, 188-190, 250-253, 330-331, 340-341, 371-376, 407-417; film and discussion.
4/13	My Lai and the Issue of War Crimes	Herring, 236 and 266; McMahon, 237-240; A, 343-353; film and discussion.
4/18	Legacies: MIA/POW, Agent Orange, Vets and PTSD, "Vietnam Syndrome"	Duiker, 259-271; McMahon, 466-473; A, 221-228, 441-460, 470-492; discussion
4/20	Lessons?	Duiker, 251-258; Herring, 299-321; McMahon, 510-538; A, 41-43, 515-549.