

The Vietnam War (21:512:462.Q1)

Instructor: Matthew Friedman

Email: matthew.friedman@rutgers.edu

Office: Conklin Hall 337 • Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 pm, Tuesday 1:30-2:30 pm

Class Location and time: Engelhard Hall 303, Tuesday 2:30-5:20 pm

The Vietnam War was one of the United States' most traumatic and controversial conflicts and it had profound repercussions for American society, politics and culture down to the present. However, it was not just America's war; it began at least a decade before the United States officially intervened in 1964, and continued for two years after the US withdrawal in 1973.

This course will place the War, and the United States' involvement in it, in a global perspective, exploring its origins in the decolonization of European empires following the Second World War and the Cold War context of American foreign policy. It will discuss the consequences of American involvement on the lives of Americans and the people of Indochina, and examine the War's long legacy in American society and culture.

In addition to producing a research paper using primary and secondary sources, students will develop their analytical skills in the written assignments and the class discussions by identifying the course readings' main theses, supporting arguments, evidence, assumptions, and rhetorical strategies.

READINGS

Mark Bradley and Marilyn Young, eds., *Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars*

George C. Herring, ed., *The Pentagon Papers* (Abridged Edition)

Le Ly Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*

A course pack with additional readings is available on Blackboard.

FILMS:

Films are available on reserve at the Dana Library, and as streaming video at Netflix and Amazon.com. Please screen them before the relevant classes.

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on-time and stay for the duration of the class. Students may be excused for illness, family emergency and similar extreme situations, and religious observance. Absences for work, job interviews and similar events will not be excused.

Three unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing grade. Students who miss four or more sessions through *any* combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course.

Participation: Everyone is both expected and required to participate in class discussions. The participation grade will reflect the quality and quantity of your in-class participation.

Response Papers: Four two-page response papers for the readings of classes of your choice.

Book Review: A 4-5 page book review of *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, due 8 March.

Film Reviews: 2-3 page reviews of the documentary films *In the Year of the Pig* (due 9 February) and *Hearts and Minds* (due 5 April).

Research Paper: A 12-15 page research paper on a topic of your choice, using primary and secondary sources. You will submit a detailed proposal, including a provisional thesis, outline and

bibliography on 16 February, and an annotated bibliography on 1 March. The final paper is due 30 April.

Final Exam: A final exam will be held in class during the exam period.

GRADING

Class Participation	10%
Response Papers	15%
Book Review	10%
Film Reviews	10%
Research Proposal	5%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Research Paper	20%
Final exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

You *must* write the final exam and submit a research paper to pass the course.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every major assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment."

CLASS SCHEDULE

19 Jan. – Class 1: Introduction

Making Sense: Mark Bradley and Marilyn Young, "Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars"
Course Pack: Nicola Cooper, "Protection, Conquest or Pacification? Creating Histories of French Intervention in Indochina" in *France in Indochina: Colonial Encounters*

26 Jan. – Class 2: The First Indochina War

Making Sense: Mark Atwood Lawrence, "Explaining the Early Decisions: The United States and the French War: 1945-1954"
Pentagon Papers: 1-36

2 Feb. – Class 3: Cold War Geopolitics

Making Sense: Gareth Porter, "Explaining the Vietnam War: Dominant and Contending Paradigms"
Course Pack: Walter Lafeber, "The 'Different World' of NSC-68" in *America, Russia and the Cold War*, George Kennan, "The Long Telegram," NSC-68

9 Feb. Class 4: First Steps

Making Sense: Edward Miller, "Vision, Power, and Agency: The Ascent of Ngo Dinh Diem"
Pentagon Papers: 37-38, 42-81
Film: In the Year of the Pig
Film Review Deadline

16 Feb. – Class 5: Waist Deep in the Big Muddy

Making Sense: Seth Jacobs, "'No Place to Fight a War:' Laos and Evolution of US Policy Toward Vietnam, 1954-1963"
Pentagon Papers: 83-103
Course Pack: Lyndon B. Johnson, "Report on the Gulf of Tonkin Incident," The Tonkin Gulf Resolution
Research Proposal Deadline

23 Feb. – Class 6: In Country

Course Pack: John M. Carland, "Winning the Vietnam War: Westmoreland's Approach in Two Documents," Robert J. Graham, "An Infantryman's View of Our Failure," Philip Caputo, "Getting Hit"

Pentagon Papers: 109-131, 134-154

Film: *The Anderson Platoon*

1 Mar. – Class 7: Escalation

Making Sense: Fredrik Logevall, "'There Ain't No Daylight:' Lyndon Johnson and the Politics of Escalation"

Pentagon Papers: 158-202

Annotated Bibliography Deadline

8 Mar. – Class 8: The Vietnamese Experience

Making Sense: David Hunt, "Taking Notice of the Everyday"

Book: Le Ly Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*

Book Review Deadline

15 Mar. – No Class (Spring Break)

22 Mar. – Class 9: The Living Room War

Course Pack: Andrew Huebner, "Rethinking American Press Coverage of the Vietnam War, 1965-68," William M. Hammond, "The Press in Vietnam as Agent of Defeat: A Critical Examination"

Pentagon Papers: 208-219

29 Mar. – Class 10: Hearts and Minds

In-class screening of *Hearts and Minds*

5 Apr. – Class 11: The Consensus Unravels

Course Pack: Tom Grace, "Remembering the Killings at Kent State," John Kerry, "Vietnam Veterans Against the War Senate Testimony, 22 April 1971," Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, "Antiwar Activists"

Film Review Deadline

12 Apr. – Class 12: Vietnamization and Withdrawal

Course Pack: Scott Sigmund Gartner, "Differing Evaluations of Vietnamization," William Shawcross, "The Secret Bombing of Cambodia," Henry Kissinger, "In Defense of the Nixon Policy," Paris Peace Accords

Research Paper Rough Draft Deadline

19 Apr. – Class 13: The War Without America

Course Pack: T. Christopher Jespersen, "Kissinger, Ford, and Congress: The Very Bitter End in Vietnam," Time Magazine, "No Truce in Saigon," National Review, "Peace With Honor," Stanley Karnow, "The Hasty Retreat from Saigon," Time Magazine, "A Khmer Curtain Descends"

26 Apr. – Class 14: Vietnam Memory

Making Sense: Michael J. Allen, "'Help Us Tell the Truth About Vietnam:' POW/MIA Politics and the End of the American War"

Course Pack: Michael Lee Lanning, "Vietnam at the Movies," Marita Sturken, "The Wall, the Screen, and the Image: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial"

Film: *The Deer Hunter*

CITATION FAQ

What do you need to cite?

Any phrase, sentence or paragraph that you have taken from another source, even if it's a sentence fragment. For example, if you use the phrase "to be or not to be: that is the question," you *must* provide a citation to the relevant page in a published edition of William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. As a general rule, if you are using words that someone else wrote, you *must* cite. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Any information that you found in another source (and isn't common knowledge), even if you paraphrase. For example, if you write something like "almost ten per cent of the adult males in the United States in 1924 were members of the Ku Klux Klan," you have to say where you got that information. If you don't, how do I know that you're not making it up?

As a general rule, you don't have to provide citations for information that we covered in class.

What happens if you don't cite?

It depends. The highest grade that a term paper without citations will receive is C+. If you quote substantially from another source and do not (a) indicate that it is a quote and (b) indicate *where* the quote came from, I will consider this plagiarism. You will receive a zero (0) on the paper and I will submit it to the Dean's office for review.

If you don't know whether you should cite a passage, quote or information, err on the side of caution and cite it.

What do you need?

As a general rule, you will need a bibliography page, and footnotes or parenthetical notes in text for all of your references. Please use the University of Chicago/Turabian citation style, since this is what historians use. You might find it useful to acquire a copy of *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* by Kate L. Turabian.

You will find additional information on the Chicago/Turabian citation style at:
<http://newarkwww.rutgers.edu/guides/cite.htm>.

SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments must be submitted *in hard copy* and to **turnitin.com** on Blackboard by the beginning of class. No assignments will be accepted after the deadline, *except with prior arrangement*. If you miss a class – and a deadline – due to illness or other excused absence, you *must* inform me, and submit the assignment to **turnitin.com** (to be followed with hard copy at the earliest opportunity).

Assignments must be typed double-spaced in 12-point Times on white paper, stapled or bound in a cover. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES

Historians refer to primary and secondary sources. A primary source is a document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study, or by a participant. Primary sources offer an inside view of a particular event. *The Pentagon Papers* is a primary source. Secondary sources provide interpretation and analysis of primary sources. Secondary sources are usually (though not always) written by professional historians and are one step removed from the original event. The essays in *Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars* are secondary sources.