



The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 4720E
The Vietnam Wars: Between Decolonization
and the Cold War
Fall/Winter 2018-19
Wednesdays, 10:30-12:30 Stevenson Hall 2166

Instructor: Geoff Stewart, Assistant Professor
Office Hours: TBA
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2237
Email: gstewa4@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This course explores the Vietnam Wars from both a Vietnamese and western perspective. It considers these conflicts in the light of the two great forces that shaped the international system at the mid-point of the twentieth century: Decolonization and the Cold War.

Prerequisite(s):

2.0 courses in History at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s):

History 4791E if taken 2010-11, 2011-12, or 2012-13; History 4796F/G if taken in 2017-18

Course Syllabus:

Scholarship on the Vietnam War has long been dominated by an American-centered body of literature that is inclined to view the conflict in Southeast Asia as the product of misapplied Cold War policies. Such a view tends to diminish the indigenous aspect of the various wars that were waged in Vietnam over that country's future. This upper level seminar addresses this shortcoming by exploring the Vietnam Wars from both a Vietnamese and western perspective, and considers these conflicts in the light of the two great forces that shaped the international system at the mid-point of the twentieth century: Decolonization and the Cold War.

The bulk of the students' grade will be derived from a major research papers students will write throughout the course of the year. Students will write a historiography paper in the first term which will assess the major literature on their essay topic. In the second term, students will focus on writing their research papers. In the last

half of the second term, seminars will be devoted to student presentations on their paper in order to receive feedback from their peers. The final papers will be due in the last class.

Course Materials:

Mark Philip Bradley, *Vietnam at War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), ISBN: 978-0-19-280349-8

As well, additional readings will be posted on the course website.

Methods of Evaluation:

Participation:	20%
Research Paper:	40%
Paper Proposal:	10%
Historiography Paper:	20%
Paper Presentation:	10%

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University’s policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms.

Students seeking academic accommodation on illness grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students should read carefully the Faculty of Social Science “Instructions for Students Registered in Social Science Who are Unable to Write Tests or Examinations or Submit Assignments as Scheduled.” They are appended to this syllabus or on the History Department website. Pressures of work (too many assignments in a short period) or computer/printer difficulties do not constitute acceptable reason for an extension. Remember to back up all notes and coursework on your computer, including research notes and drafts, and retain all notes until after final grades are issued.

Course Schedule:

September 12: Introduction to the Course

September 19: Colonial Vietnam and the Origins of Vietnamese Nationalism

September 26: The Vietnamese Struggle for Independence

October 3: Decolonization

October 10: Fall Reading Week – *No Class*

October 17: America in the World

Paper Proposals Due

October 24: America Encounters Vietnam

October 31: The First Indochina War

November 7: The First Indochina War in an International Context

November 14: The Two Vietnams, Part 1: The Democratic Republic of Vietnam

November 21: The Two Vietnams, Part 2: Ngo Dinh Diem's Republic of Vietnam

November 28: Escalation

December 5: Choosing War

Historiography Papers Due

January 9: The American War

January 16: Vietnam's War

January 23: America's War at Home

January 30: Ending the War

February 6: Casualties of War: Laos and Cambodia

February 13: Legacies: Peace with Honour?

February 20: No Class - *Reading Week*

February 27: Student Presentations

March 6: Student Presentations

March 13: Student Presentations

March 20: Student Presentations

March 27: Student Presentations

April 3: *Papers Due*

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the

relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangelen@uwo.ca.