

HIST 4543 – The Vietnam War
Laura A. Belmonte
May 2013 Summer Session
Monday-Friday, May 13th-31st, 8:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Morrill 102

Required Course Materials:

Michael H. Hunt, *A Vietnam War Reader: A Documentary History from American and Vietnamese Perspectives* (UNC Press, 2010), ISBN–978-0-8078-5991-9

Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*

Robert McNamara, *In Retrospect*

Office Hours/Contact Information

My office hours will be **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 p.m.** in Murray 121. My cell phone is (xxx) xxx.xxxx. Please do not call me before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m. My e-mail address is laura.belmonte@okstate.edu. While I am on Facebook, I do not accept friend requests from students until after they have graduated.

D2L

We will use D2L extensively in this course. You may access the site using your O-KEY user id and password at <http://oc.okstate.edu>.

You will need to install the **Respondus Lock-Down Browser** – there are directions and a link for doing so on D2L.

In the **Content** section, I strongly urge you to **print and bring to all class sessions** the following:

- The Master Lecture Outline
- The Guide to Terminology

The Content section also contains a copy of this syllabus.

Throughout the course, you will take several **Quizzes** on D2L. They are located in the **Quizzes** section of D2L. They will be posted for defined periods of time and will cover lectures, readings, and films. Deadlines will be announced in class and via email.

You will also be able to monitor your grades/points totals in the **Grades** section.

To review your **graded quizzes/exam**, go to the **Content** section, proceed to the **Graded Work section**. From there, double-click the **Submissions** tab and then click **Attempts**. You should then be taken to a page showing your questions, any comments I may have inserted, and the scores you have received.

Please be advised that as soon as I post even just one student's grade on a particular assignment, a class average on that assignment will start showing and any ungraded assignments may show up in your individual gradebook as zeros. **Don't panic**. This likely means nothing more than that I haven't graded your particular assignment yet. But, if a significant amount of time has elapsed and you still have no grade (or if you have encountered technological difficulties in submitting a certain assignment), please let me know and we'll figure out what happened.

Class Participation

Class participation involves **informed and frequent** contribution to discussions and activities.

I am interested in your input and strongly support student participation. I encourage you to ask questions at anytime. Please also let me know if you are getting lost or we are moving faster than you can process the material.

Attendance

Attendance is absolutely critical to your success in this course and is therefore mandatory. Absences will only be permitted in emergency situations and/or previous permission from me.

Daily Routine or "How the Heck Am I Going to Survive This?"

We will be covering in 3 weeks the amount of material usually covered in 15 weeks. While you will not be asked to read as much as you would in a regular semester, do not get the mistaken idea that this course will be "easy" because it is short.

You are going to work really hard for these three weeks and if you do not think you have the time or inclination to do that, you seriously need to consider dropping this course in favor of taking one that might be better suited to your learning style and/or schedule.

Having now warned you of the rigors ahead, let me also say that I realize that 3 hours is a long time to pay attention, even if you are genuinely trying to do so. Accordingly, I will integrate short breaks throughout the days we meet.

Please feel free to use the bathroom at any time.

You are welcome to bring in food and drink, but please clean up after yourself.

You are welcome to take notes on a laptop, but please keep activities not related to the class to an absolute minimum.

Please silence your mobile devices.

Assignments

Your overall grade will be comprised of points earned on **TWO book reviews, EIGHT lecture quizzes, and a cumulative final exam.**

There is **NO limit** on the AMOUNT of work you can complete, but **the failure to complete BOTH book assignments will result in a 500-point deduction from your overall point total.**

The overall grade scale will be based on a **1000-point rubric.**

Book Reviews

I have designed specific guidelines for each book – be sure to read them carefully before reading. They are posted in the Content section on D2L (<http://oc.okstate.edu>).

Each book review is worth up to 100 points. Failure to complete BOTH book assignments will result in a 500-point deduction from your overall point total.

Unless you have gotten specific permission from me for a deviation, the book reviews are due on the dates specified below. **Late papers will not be accepted.**

Unless I grant you permission to do so, I will NOT accept emailed papers or papers left under my office door or in my mailbox.

All book reviews are due in hard copy, in class, on the date assigned for each specific book. There will be a class discussion of each book on these due dates.

All papers are to be written in accordance with the Rules for Written Work found below.

Rules for Written Work:

So that I might grade the considerable amount of work this class generates in the most expeditious way and in the hope of minimizing your misadventures in the worlds of

punctuation and diction, all work submitted in hard copy must adhere to the following rules:

Failure to abide by all of these rules will result in a lower grade on your essay.

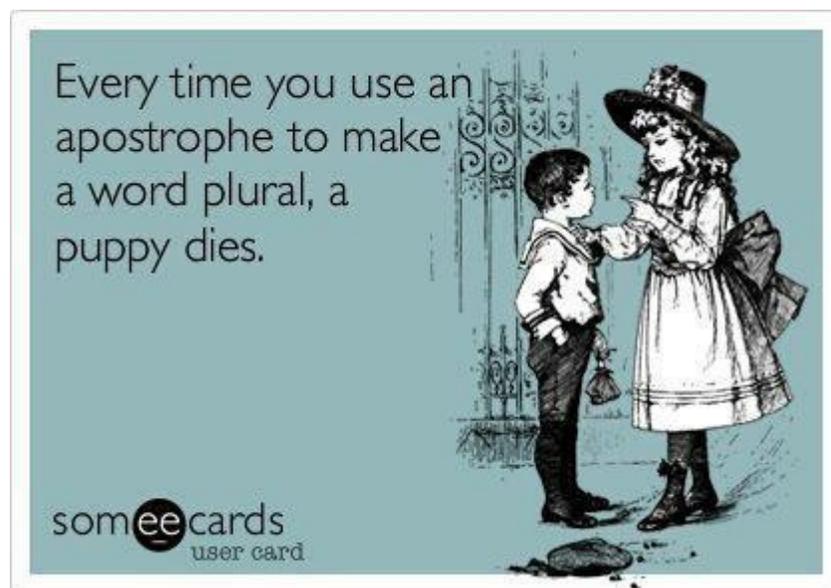
- Typed, double-spaced (two-sided printing is fine).
- Black ink
- Numbered Pages
- 12-point font
- One-inch margins
- Stapled
- If you include a citation of the book being reviewed, a simple parenthetical citation is fine. (McNamara, p. 1). If you cite another source, please include a complete footnote in any accepted style (MLA, Chicago).
- If you are reading an e-book and it does not include page numbers, please cite the location number and percentage.
- No plastic covers
- No texting style
- All work must be proofed, careless grammatical errors will detract from your overall grade
- **'s does not indicate a plural form** - Learn this, please.

Cat = one cat

Cats = two cats

Cat's = the singular possessive form of cat. Example, the cat's meow

Cats' = plural possessive of cat.



Quizzes

We will have several quizzes that pertain to the lectures, class readings, and films watched in class or on your own time.

Once we complete a lecture or film, you will take the quizzes on D2L out of class – listen carefully and watch your email for **quiz deadlines**.

Lecture Quizzes will be comprised of two sections. The first includes questions about the primary sources from the Michael Hunt collection that accompany each lecture (listed in the Class Blueprint below). The second includes randomly generated short-answer and short essay questions.

You will have between 30 minutes and 120 minutes to complete a quiz, depending on the length and complexity of the material addressed.

Each quiz is worth between **25 and 150 points**.

Because the class is so intensive, I will allow you to consult notes, so I urge you to take them carefully.

Final Exam

Your final exam will be taken **on D2L** following the completion of class meetings and will be due **by NOON, Sunday June 2nd**. You will have **180 minutes** to complete the exam. You will be able to consult your lecture notes, but given the scope of material and time constraints, you will need to know those notes well *before* you take the exam.

NOTE – If you earned 900 points prior to the Final Exam, you do NOT need to take it.

The exam will be comprised of several parts including:

- Multiple-choice questions
- Questions drawn from the quizzes on lectures and primary documents in the Hunt text.
- Essay questions in which you describe and assess the historical examination, origins, motives, tactics, impact, etc.... of major events/actors/trends of the Vietnam War.

Grading/Grade Scale

Your overall grade in the course will be based upon **the cumulative point total** you earn from completing the **TWO required book assignments PLUS whatever**

combination of film quizzes, lecture/readings quizzes, and/or the final exam you choose.

There are no tricks here, each assignment is worth a defined number of points and you earn them cumulatively *as long as you don't accrue the 500-point penalty for failure to complete BOTH book assignments.*

Point values will range as follows:

- Book Assignments – TWO required book assignments, each worth up to 100 points
- Quizzes on the lectures/readings – 8 lectures total, 50 to 150 points per quiz
- Quizzes on films – 25 to 50 points per quiz
- Final Exam – up to 200 points. **NOTE – If you have earned 900 points prior to the Final Exam, you do NOT have to take it.**

At my discretion, I may also award extra credit for attendance, impromptu out-of-class assignments, reports on campus events or relevant films or tv programs, etc....

OVERALL COURSE grades will be correlated to the following 1000–point scale:

900-1000 = A
 800-899 = B
 700-799 = C
 600-699 = D
 0-599 = F

Late Assignments: In order to be fair to students who turn work in on time, **I do not accept late work without legitimate reasons and without your making previous arrangements with me.**

If you have a **legitimate emergency** (validated with University documentation or a doctor's note), we can arrange an extended deadline.

Course Drop Policy:

Monday, May 13

100% Refund, Nonrestrictive Drop/Add Deadline

Tuesday, May 14

50% Refund, Restrictive Drop/Add Deadline

Tuesday, May 28

W Drop/Withdraw Deadline

Wednesday, May 29

W/F Withdraw Deadline

Incomplete Grades

University Policy requires that students complete at least 50% of course work to receive an “incomplete” grade. But, in the rare instance that I do allow a student to take an “incomplete,” be advised that all course work must be finished within a year of receipt of the “I” grade. If the student does not meet that deadline, the “I” will remain an I paired with whatever overall grade you would have earned at the time the original I was assigned – for example, I/B, I/C, etc...

Please also note that students do NOT automatically receive an incomplete, regardless of the circumstances. You must make arrangements *with me* in order to pursue this option.

Special Accommodations for Students

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is the responsibility of each student with a disability to notify the University of his or her disability and to notify the instructor and request verification of eligibility for accommodations from Student Disability Services, 315 Student Union, 405-744-7116. **Please advise the instructor of such disability and desired accommodations at some point before, during, or immediately after the first class session.**

Academic Integrity:

OSU has implemented extensive academic integrity policies and procedures. Please read these very carefully at

<http://osu.okstate.edu/acadaffr/aa/PDF%20Files/aistudenthandout.pdf>

All students are expected to acquaint themselves with the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures and to commit themselves to the following statement:

“I will respect Oklahoma State University’s commitment to academic integrity and uphold the values of honesty and responsibility that preserve our academic community.”

For more information, see <http://osu.okstate.edu/acadaffr/aa/academicintegrity.htm>

OSU History Department Statement on Academic Integrity

Oklahoma State University and the Department of History are committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration on homework assignments, plagiarism, multiple submissions of the same assignment, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person to cheat, having unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, fraudulently altering academic records, or any other action deemed as giving an unfair academic advantage will result in sanctions.

Plagiarism within any assigned work is a serious violation of academic standards, punishable as cheating. Plagiarism may be defined as the act of using another's words or ideas as one's own and may include any of the following practices: (1) direct copying from any source without citation, (2) direct copying from any source without quotation marks (even if footnotes are used), (3) paraphrasing the argument of another author or student without citation, or (4) presenting purchased research as one's own.

For proper form in citations, you may consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, or the OSU History Department's *Reading Yesterday, Writing Today* guide.

Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination, or course; receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript; or being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, (405) 744-.5627.

Class Blueprint

Lecture 1: Origins

Film

- *Indochine* (1992, France, 159 minutes)

Readings

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, Preface (pp. xiii-xv), Introduction (pp. xvii-xxii)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, "Emergence of a Nationalist Vision," Documents 1.1-1.3 (pp. 1-7)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, "Ho Chi Minh's Rise to Prominence, 1919-1945," Documents 1.4-1.7 (pp. 8-13)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, "The Popular Appeal of Revolution," Documents 1.8-1.10 (pp. 14-20)

Lecture 2: The Cold War and The Roots of U.S. Involvement in VietnamLecture 3: Eisenhower, Diem, and the Path to WarLecture 4: JFK and Vietnam**Readings**

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Deeping U.S. Engagement in Indochina, 1943-1954,” Documents 1.11-1.13 (pp. 21-28)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “A Country Divided or United? July 1954-December 1960,” Documents 2.1-2.5 (pp. 29-40)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “The Perspective of NLF Activists,” Documents 2.6-2.7 (pp. 41-45)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Reacting to NLF Success, 1961-1963,” Documents 2.8-2.9 (pp. 46-49)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “The Diem Regime in Crisis, July-November 1963,” Documents 2.10-2.13 (pp. 50-56)

Possible Films

- *A Bright Shining Lie* (1998, USA, feature, 118 minutes)
- *The Quiet American* (2002, USA, feature, 101 minutes)
- *The Ugly American* (1963, USA, feature, 120 minutes)
- *Wharf of Widows* (2001, Vietnam, feature, 90 minutes)

Lecture 5: Lyndon Johnson’s War(?)**Readings**

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “The Saigon Government on the Ropes, November 1963-August 1965,” Documents 3.1-3.4 (pp. 57-65)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Johnson Escalates, August 1964-April 1965,” Documents 3.5-3.7 (pp. 66-70)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Hanoi Prepares for War, October 1964-May 1965,” Documents 3.8-3.10 (pp. 71-74)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Opening Shots, 1965,” Documents 6.1 (pp. 161-165)

Lecture 6: Stalemate**Readings**

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “‘Going off the Diving Board’,” June-July 1965,” Documents 3.11-3.15 (pp. 75-84)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Opening Shots, 1965,” Document 6.2 (p. 166)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Strategies for Victory, September-November 1965,” Documents 4.1-4.3 (pp. 85-92)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “To The Rescue, 1965-1967,” Documents 5.1-5.5 (pp. 101-105)

123-129)

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “In the Shadow of the Giant, 1965-1967,” Documents 5.6-5.11 (pp. 130-142)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “The Tet Offensive Gamble, July 1967-March 1968,” Documents 4.4-4.6 (pp. 93-99)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Criticism Goes Mainstream, 1965-1968,” Documents 6.3-6.7 (pp. 167-173)

Possible Films

- *Apocalypse Now* (1979, USA, feature)
- *The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)* (2008, documentary) - Netflix Instant
- *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989, USA, feature) – Netflix Instant
- *Casualties of War* (1989, USA, feature) – Netflix Instant
- *Choosing Sides: I Remember Vietnam* (2005, USA, documentary)
- *Coming Home* (1978, USA, feature)
- *Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam* (1987, USA, documentary, 84 minutes) – YouTube, 8 parts, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMwy9SLhaD4>
- *The Deer Hunter* (1978, USA, feature, 183 minutes)
- *Full Metal Jacket* (1987, UK, feature, 116 minutes) – Netflix Instant
- *Gardens of Stone* (1987, feature)
- *Gao Rang* (2001, Vietnam, documentary, 52 minutes)
- *Go Tell the Spartans* (1978, USA, feature)
- *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987, USA, feature)
- *Heaven and Earth* (1993, USA, feature, 140 minutes)
- *In The Year of The Pig* (1968, documentary, 103 minutes)
- *Path to War* (2003, USA, feature, 164 minutes)
- *Platoon* – (1986, USA, feature)
- *Return with Honor* (1999, USA, documentary, 101 minutes)
- *Sir, No Sir!* (2005, USA, documentary, 84 minutes)
- *The Anderson Platoon* (1966, USA, documentary)
- *The Camden 28* (2007, USA, documentary) – Netflix Instant
- *The Fog of War* (2004, USA, 107 minutes) – YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkQk50qtTwo>
- *The Green Berets* (1968, USA, feature)
- *The War at Home* (1996, USA, feature)
- *The War at Home* (1979, USA, documentary, 100 minutes)
- *Two Days in October* (2005, USA, 90 minutes)
- *We Were Soldiers* (2002, USA, feature, 138 minutes)

Lecture 7 – Peace with Honor (?)

Readings

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Getting Beyond Stalemate, November 1968-July 1969,” Documents 4.7-4.9 (pp. 100-105)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Talking and Fighting, April 1970-January 1973,” Documents 4.10-4.18 (pp. 106-122)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “The War Goes Sour, 1968-1971,” Documents 5.12-5.16 (pp. 143-151)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Staggering Through an Endless War, 1968-1971 (pp. 152-160)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Rising Contention and Polarization, 1969-1970,” Documents 6.8-6.10 (pp. 174-180)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “The Vietnam Veterans Movement, 1971,” Documents 6.11-6.12 (pp. 181-184)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Endgame, 1974-1975,” Documents 7.1-7.4 (pp. 188-191)

Possible Films

- *Four Hours in My Lai* (1989, USA, documentary) – YouTube (7 parts)- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYzb9DH7YAE>, Netflix Instant
- *Hearts and Minds* (1974, documentary, 112 minutes) - YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1d2ml82lc7s>
- *My Lai* (2010, documentary, 83 minutes)
- *The Hanoi Hilton* (1987, USA, feature, 125 minutes)
- *The Killing Fields* (1984, UK, 142 minutes)
- *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and The Pentagon Papers* (2009, documentary, 94 minutes)
- *The Pentagon Papers* (2003, USA, feature)
- *The Trials of Henry Kissinger* (2002, USA, documentary) – YouTube (8 parts, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CHFijNE2IA&feature=related>), Netflix Instant
- *The Weather Underground* (2002, USA, documentary, 100 minutes)
- *Winter Soldier* (1972, USA, documentary, 95 minutes) – Netflix Instant

Lecture 8 – Legacies and Memories

Readings

- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “South Vietnamese Looking Back on a Lost Cause,” Documents 7.5-7.7 (pp. 192-196)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Living with the Ghosts of a Long War,” Documents 7.8-7.9 (pp. 197-201)
- *A Vietnam War Reader*, “Political Verdicts,” Documents 7.10-7.11, “Concluding Reflections” (pp. 202-209)

Possible Films

- *Daughter from Danaag* (2002, USA, documentary)–YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ueTwnMb8dl>)
- *Enemies of the People* (2010, USA, documentary, 93 minutes) – Amazon Instant
- *Green Dragon* (2001, USA, feature, 115 minutes)
- *How to Behave* (1987, Vietnam, documentary, 43 minutes) - YouTube
- *Journey from the Fall* (2007, feature)
- *Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision* (1995, USA, documentary)
- *Missing in Action* (1984, USA, feature)
- *Rambo – First Blood* (1982, USA, feature)
- *Rambo – First Blood II* (1985, USA, feature)
- *Regret to Inform* (1998, USA, 70 minutes)
- *Where War Has Passed* (2002, Vietnam, 20 minutes) -YouTube

Important Dates and Deadlines

Lecture and Film Quiz Deadlines will be *announced in class* and *via email* as they correlate with our completion of lectures and film screenings.

Monday, May 20th - Book Assignment on Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War* due IN CLASS.

Monday, May 27th – NO CLASS, Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 28th – Book Assignment on Robert McNamara, *In Retrospect* due IN CLASS

Sunday, June 2nd, NOON – D2L-based FINAL EXAM due.