Course Information
Fall 2012.

Professor Contact Information
Stephen G. Rabe
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Website: http://www.utdallas.edu/ah/people/faculty_detail.php?faculty_id=891
Office: JO 5.614.
Hours: MW 11:15-12 noon; M 5:45-6:45 p.m.; T 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
None.

Course Description
This course will analyze the reaction and response of American society to the political and military defeat that the United States suffered at the hands of the North Vietnamese and their allies in the South, the Viet Cong. In pursuing this perception of defeat, we will examine the nature of the debate that has raged in scholarly, political, and military circles over why the United States was unable to achieve its objective of an independent, non-Communist South Vietnam. But we will also want to examine how Americans, bred on a history of success, interpret this defeat. As such, we will want to analyze how novelists, filmmakers, dramatists, poets, philosophers, musicians, media critics, anti-war activists, and veterans have attempted to explain Vietnam.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
Through seminar discussions, readings, and written work, the student will improve their reading, writing, and speaking abilities. Students will also have a comprehensive understanding of the American experience in Vietnam.
Required Textbooks and Materials
Duong Van Mai Elliot, *The Sacred Willow*.
David Halberstam, *Ho*
Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*.
Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*.
Michael Hunt, *Lyndon Johnson’s War*.
Stewart O’Nan, ed., *The Vietnam Reader*.
Duong Thu Huong, *Novel Without a Name*.

Suggested Course Materials
None

Assignments & Academic Calendar

August 28
Vietnamese Nationalism
Documentary, *Vietnamese History*.
Elliot, pp. 3-156.
Halberstam, *Ho*, 3-61.

September 4
French Colonialism
Documentary, *Indo-China War, 1946-1954*
Elliot, pp. 157-272.
Halberstam, 62-104.
McMahon, Chapter 2 (6 documents; 2 essays)

September 11
U.S. and Vietnam, 1945-1961
Documentary, *America’s Mandarin*
Halberstam, pp. 105-18.
Greene, *The Quiet American*
McMahon, Chapter 4 (7 documents; 3 essays).

September 18
U.S. and Vietnam, 1961-1965
Documentary, *Hearts and Minds*
Hunt, pp. 2-71.
Elliot, pp. 273-403.
September 25
Documentary, *Khe Sanh*
Hunt, pp. 72-128.
Caputo, *A Rumor of War*.

October 2
Military Strategies
Documentary, *With America's Enemy*
McMahon, Chapter 7 (7 documents; 2 essays) & Chapter 9 (8 documents; 2 essays).

October 9
Nixon’s Plan for Peace, 1969-1973
Documentary, *Return to My Lai*
McMahon, Chapter 11 (10 documents; 2 essays)
O’Nan, pp. 297-387.

October 16 (No Seminar)

October 23
Veterans
Play, *Medal of Honor Rag*
O’Nan, pp. 81-106; 632-52.
McMahon, Chapter 8 (8 documents; 2 essays).

October 30
Antiwar Movement
Documentary, *The War at Home*.
McMahon, Chapter 12 (8 documents; 3 essays).

November 6
Vietnam in Literature & Song
O’Nan, pp. 11-80, 279-96, 427-38, 503-60, 593-612.

November 13
Media and Vietnam
Film, *Apocalypse Now* (portions).

November 20 (No Seminar; Fall Break)

November 27
Hollywood and Vietnam
Film, *Hamburger Hill* (portions)
O’Nan, pp. 257-78; 439-56.
December 4
Lessons of Vietnam
Documentary, *The Fog of War*
Duong Thu Huong, *Novel Without a Name*
Elliot, pp. 405-74.

December 11
Contemporary Vietnam
Documentary, *Regret to Inform*
McMahon, Chapter 15 (6 documents; 3 essays).
Gibb, *The Beauty of Humanity Movement*

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**Grading Policy**
faithful attendance at seminar sessions; vigorous and informed participation in seminar discussions; submission of a series (8-12) of short (1,000-1,250 words) papers based on assigned readings. Final grade will be based on instructor’s evaluation of student’s entire effort in class.

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**Course & Instructor Policies**
Class attendance is essential and critical to good academic performance in a graduate seminar. Students must also complete each reading assignment on time in order to facilitate seminar discussions.

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University policy on classes can be found at: