Special Topics: War and Society in the 20th Century:

The Vietnam War

Bookstore List (in approximate order of use):


Useful Web Sites

There are a number of Vietnam War-related Web sites, including the following:

Vietnam-related documents (Mount Holyoke):
http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/vietnam.htm

Links to Vietnam War resources (by Robert Buzzanco):
http://vi.uh.edu/pages/buzzmat/links.htm

Vietnam War bibliography (Edwin Moïse):
http://www.clemson.edu/caah/history/FacultyPages/EdMoise/bibliography.html

National Security Archive (George Washington University) (Cold War documents):
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/

McGraw-Hill also has a Web site based on Herring’s book, with links to documents, maps, etc.: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072417552/


Books available only on Library Reserve
(Weekly readings will indicate excerpts available on E-Reserve)


Mitchell Hall, The Vietnam War.


George C. Herring, LBJ and Vietnam: A Different Kind of War.

John Lewis Gaddis, We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History.


William Duiker, Ho Chi Minh.


Melvin Small, Antiwarriors: The Vietnam War and the Battle for America’s Hearts and Minds.


Todd Gitlin, *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*.


W. J. Rorabaugh, *Berkeley at War: The 1960s*.

Noam Chomsky et al., *The Cold War and the University*.

Michael Lind, *Vietnam the Necessary War: A Reinterpretation of America’s Most Disastrous Military Conflict*.


Arnold Isaacs, *Vietnam Shadows*.


**Weekly Reading Assignments** (about 200-250 pages a week):

1. Week of September 1 (Labor Day): Introduction: The Background in the Cold War and Vietnam


   Further useful reading:
   Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War* (chapters on Truman and Eisenhower).

2. Week of September 8: Historiographical Issues in U. S. Policy; the French War and the Geneva Accords

Herring, *ALW*, remainder of chapter 1 and chapter 2.
Duiker, chapter 2.

3. Week of September 15: Washington’s War (I): Kennedy’s War

Powaski, chapter 5 (to p. 152).
Herring, *ALW*, chapter 3.
Herring, *PP*, chapter 2.

Further useful reading:


Powaski, chapter 5.
Herring, *ALW*, chapters 4-5.
Herring, *PP*, chapters 3-6.

5. Week of September 29: Washington’s War (III): LBJ Manages the War

Herring, *LBJ and Vietnam: A Different Kind of War*, chapters 1; in chapter 5, pp. 121-128 (Book Reserve and E-Reserve).
Larry Berman, “Coming to Grips with Lyndon Johnson’s War” (*Diplomatic History*, vol. 17:4 [Fall 1993], pp. 519-537; E-Reserve).
Francis Bator, “No Good Choices: LBJ and the Vietnam/Great Society Connection” (*Diplomatic History*, vol. 32:3 [June 2008], pp. 309-340; and the comments by Evan Thomas, Randall Woods, Marilyn Young, Mark Moyar, Fredrik Logevall, and Larry Berman, and Bator’s reply (pp. 341-370; E-Reserve).
McNamara, *In Retrospect*, chapters 4 and 5.

Further useful reading:


McNamara, chapters 7, 9-11.

Further useful reading:
Appendix to Vintage edition of McNamara: sections by McNamara, Ernest May, Walt Rostow, Richard Rusk.

The class would find it useful to see the film “The Fog of War” (the Errol Morris documentary and interview of McNamara), which is available in the Instructional Media Center in the Library and at many local video rental outlets.

>> Mid-semester examination on Friday, October 10.


The class will adjourn for a week of R & R: Fall Break - week of October 20.

8. Week of October 27: The Grunt’s War (II): Army Memories

Bergerud, chapters 3, 4, 6, 7, Epilogue.

Further useful reading:
For a negative view of US soldiers, see Robert Buzzanco, Vietnam…., pp. 89-94, 113-118.

9. Week of November 3: The Grunt’s War (III): War Stories

Stewart O’Nan (ed.), The Vietnam Reader, Introduction, sections 1, 3, 10.

10. Week of November 10: The Enemy’s War (I): The View from Hanoi

William J. Duiker, Sacred War, chapters 3-Epilogue.
Truong Nhu Tang, A Viet Cong Memoir, Foreword, chapters 1-5.

Further useful reading:
William Duiker, Ho Chi Minh.
Bui Tin, Following Ho Chi Minh: Memoirs of a North Vietnamese Colonel.

11. Week of November 17: The Enemy’s War (II): The View from the South
Truong Nhu Tang, chapters 6-Epilogue (chapters 21-24 can be skimmed).

Further useful reading:

12. Week of November 24 (Thanksgiving Week): The War Against the War


Further useful reading:
Melvin Small, *Antiwarriors: The Vietnam War and the Battle for America’s Hearts and Minds* (especially the Conclusion).
Todd Gitlin, *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*.
John Carlos Rowe and Rick Berg (eds.), *The Vietnam War and American Culture*.

13. Week of December 1: The War Against the War (II); Back to Washington—the Nixon-Kissinger War

Small and Hoover, *Give Peace a Chance*, parts III and IV.
Ronald Powaski, *The Cold War*, chapter 6, Conclusion.
Herring, *ALW*, chapter 7.

Further useful reading:
Jeffrey Kimball, *Nixon’s Vietnam War*.

14. Week of December 8: The End of the Tunnel

Herring, *ALW*, chapter 8.

Further useful reading:
Arnold Isaacs, *Vietnam Shadows*, chapters 1, 3, 8.


A term paper will be due on Friday, December 12 (details to be announced). There will also be a final examination.