

HIST 5050
The United States in the Vietnam War

Ohio University, Spring Semester 2021

Instructor: Ingo Trauschweizer

90-minute meetings, W 9-10:30;
3050: Tu/ Th, 10:30-11:50 (optional)

Office: on Teams, for now

Office Hours: by appointment (and I consider the optional undergraduate meetings to be open office hours)

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1. General Outline:

This course is the postgraduate section of HIST 3050, an upper-level elective that will explore U.S. policies and strategies in the Vietnam War era (1945-1975) and the domestic and international consequences of American engagement in Southeast Asia. We will explore the origins of the conflict, both from an American and a Vietnamese perspective and in the context of the Cold War, the course and conduct of the war, its transformative effect on American political culture, the peace process, and the aftermath of the war in politics and memory. *The U.S. in the Vietnam War* holds that it is impossible to understand the Vietnam War in isolation and that domestic and foreign policies need to be considered as closely related issues. The main objectives of HIST 5050 are to introduce debates and recent notable contributions to Vietnam War scholarship, to help you read at a postgraduate level, and to prepare you for examinations and possible research topics.

2. Requirements:

The format of HIST 5050 depends on the number of students. For 4 or more students, it will be offered as a readings colloquium as outlined below: a weekly book or article discussion meeting for HIST 5050 (1 ½ hours, time TBD). For 3 or fewer students, meetings and reading schedule will be arranged and additional writing assignments may serve as substitute for discussions. Graduate students should attend Teams meetings of HIST 3050 as necessary (but those are optional for all students). You should feel free to participate actively in the undergraduate segment of the class without monopolizing discussion time. You are not expected to post to Blackboard or write a film response paper; your exams will be two take-home essays that should allow you to develop a sense of literature and arguments.

Grade components: **mid-term and final** (take-home essay exams meant to help you prepare for comprehensive exams): 50%; **participation**: 25%; **writing assignment**: 25% (2 book reviews of 800-1,000 words each, your choice of books from the list of readings, due at the beginning of discussion). I reward improvement in essay exams by forgetting (forgiving or ignoring) your mid-term if the final is better (and as long as you have

submitted a serious mid-term essay). If there is no improvement, the two grades will be averaged. The same applies to the book reviews.

In the event of a major campus emergency or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages may be subject to change. It also may become necessary to revise the semester calendar.

3. Rules and Recommendations:

The university has rules and policies in place for plagiarism that you should all be familiar with (http://www.ohio.edu/judiciaries/conduct_policy.cfm). If you're uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, come see me and we can look at your specific questions. It is commonly defined as "to steal and use ideas and writings of another as one's own or to appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own." (*American Heritage Dictionary*) In any of my classes, plagiarizers will be expelled with an automatic F and their case will be prosecuted further through appropriate channels. Make sure to save your research notes, photocopies, and files as well as any feedback you've received from me so that you can protest innocence with vigor and evidence if you should be suspected of any form of cheating. In general, you should maintain a course portfolio in which you collect all graded assignments.

Make sure to attend my office hours or schedule an appointment to share your concerns and talk about your progress in this class or any problems that may interfere with your performance.

There will be no assignments for extra credit. Deadlines and exam dates are firm and papers or exams will be penalized by half a letter grade for every day they are submitted late. In extraordinary cases, you may ask for an extension, but you cannot wait until the last days before a deadline will expire.

If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, make an appointment to see me, or see me during my office hours.

4. Readings for HIST 3050:

Mark Atwood Lawrence, *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History* (2008).

John A. Wood, *Veteran Narratives and the Collective Memory of the Vietnam War* (2016).

I don't expect graduate students to read these in addition to your assignments, but you may find it useful to keep an eye on Lawrence for the international context and Wood for the soldiers' experience and post-war memory shaping.

5. Reading schedule for graduate students:

Anyone who wants to explore further readings should consult Edwin Moise's annotated bibliography at <http://edmoise.sites.clemson.edu/bibliography.html>

For a good introduction to the debates surrounding the Vietnam, see Gary R. Hess, *Vietnam: Explaining America's Lost War* (2nd ed., 2015).

01/20: Postwar Southeast Asia

Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Wars: Freedom and Revolution in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006.

Recommended: William J. Duiker, *Ho Chi Minh: A Life*; Wen-Qing Ngoei, *Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anti-Communism in Southeast Asia*; Ron Spector, *In the Ruins of Empire: The Japanese Surrender and the Battle for Postwar Asia*; Stein Tønnesson, *Vietnam 1946: How the War Began*

01/27: The U.S. and the First Indochina War

Fredrik Logevall, *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*. New York: Random House, 2012.

Recommended: Mark Atwood Lawrence, *Assuming the Burden: Europe and the American Commitment to War in Vietnam*; Christopher Goscha, "A 'Total War' of Decolonization? Social Mobilization and State-Building in Communist Vietnam," *War & Society* (Aug. 2012); John Prados, *Operation Vulture: America's Dien Bien Phu*; Kathryn Statler, *Replacing France: The Origins of American Intervention in Vietnam*

02/03: Nation-Building in South Vietnam?

Edward Miller, *Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and the Fate of South Vietnam*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013.

Recommended: Philip E. Catton, *Diem's Final Failure: Prelude to America's War in Vietnam*; Jessica Chapman, *Cauldron of Resistance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and 1950s South Vietnam*; Ang Cheng Guan, *Southeast Asia's Cold War: an Interpretive History*; Mark Moyar, *Triumph Forsaken: The Vietnam War, 1954-1965*; William J. Rust, *Before the Quagmire: American Intervention in Laos, 1965-1961 and Eisenhower and Cambodia: Diplomacy, Covert Action, and the Origins of the Second Indochina War*; Bradley Simpson, *Economists with Guns: Authoritarian Development and U.S.-Indonesian Relations, 1960-1968*

02/10: The Masters of War?

H. R. McMaster, *Dereliction of Duty*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997 and Ingo Trauschweizer, "Cautious Hawk: Maxwell Taylor and the Path to War in Vietnam," *Journal of Military History* (July 2019).

Recommended: Robert Buzzanco, *Masters of War: Military Dissent and Politics in the Vietnam Era*; J. P. Harris, *Vietnam's High Ground: Armed Struggle for the Central Highlands, 1954-1965*; Edwin E. Moïse, *Tonkin Gulf and the Escalation of the Vietnam War* (rev. ed., 2019); Ingo Trauschweizer, *Maxwell Taylor's Cold War: From Berlin to Vietnam*; Brian VanDeMark, *Road to Disaster: a New History of America's Descent into Vietnam*

02/17: Choosing War?

Andrew Preston, *The War Council: McGeorge Bundy, the NSC, and Vietnam*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006.

Recommended: Gordon Goldstein, *Lessons in Disaster: McGeorge Bundy and the Path to War in Vietnam*; George Herring, *LBJ and Vietnam: A Different Kind of War*; James G. Hershberg, *Marigold: The Lost Chance for Peace in Vietnam*; Fredrik Logevall, *Choosing War: The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation of War in Vietnam*; William J. Rust, *So Much to Lose: John F. Kennedy and American Policy in Laos*

02/24: China's War in Vietnam

Qiang Zhai, *China's Vietnam Wars, 1950-1975*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000.

Recommended: Chen Jian, *Mao's China and the Cold War*; Ilya V. Gaiduk, *Confronting Vietnam: Soviet Policy toward the Indochina Conflict, 1954-1963* and *The Soviet Union and the Vietnam War*; Xiaobing Li, *Building Ho's Army: Chinese Military Assistance to North Vietnam* and *The Dragon in the Jungle: The Chinese Army in the Vietnam War*

03/03: (North) Vietnam's War

Pierre Asselin, *Hanoi's Road to the Vietnam War, 1954-1965*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

Recommended: Pierre Asselin, *Vietnam's American War*; Ang Cheng Guan, *The Vietnam War from the Other Side: The Vietnamese Communist Perspective*; Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, *Hanoi's War: An International History of the War for Peace in Vietnam*; Warren K. Wilkins, *Grab Their Belts to Fight Them: The Viet Cong's Big Unit War Against the U.S., 1965-1966*

03/10: (South) Vietnam's War

Heather Marie Stur, *Saigon at War: South Vietnam and the Global Sixties*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020

Recommended: Robert K. Brigham, *ARVN: Life and Death in the South Vietnamese Army*; Andrew Wiest, *Vietnam's Forgotten Army: Heroism and Betrayal in the ARVN*

03/17: The Limits of Power: War in the Air

Mark Clodfelter, *The Limits of Air Power: The American Bombing of North Vietnam*. New York: The Free Press, 1989.

mid-term due at the end of Week 9 (Friday)

03/24: The Limits of Power: War on Land

Gregory A. Daddis, *Westmoreland's War: Reassessing American Strategy in Vietnam*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013 AND Andrew J. Birtle, "PROVN, Westmoreland, and the Historians: A Reappraisal," *Journal of Military History* (Oct. 2008)

Recommended: Eric Bergerud, *The Dynamics of Defeat: The Vietnam War in Hau Nghia Province*; Kyle Longley, *Grunts: The American Combat Soldier in Vietnam*; R. Lewis Sorley, *Westmoreland: The General Who Lost Vietnam*; Andrew J. Wiest, *The Boys of '67: Charlie Company's War in Vietnam*; Warren K. Wilkins, *Nine Days in May: The Battles of the 4th Infantry Division at the Cambodian Border, 1967*
For autobiographical fiction: Karl Marlantes, *Matterhorn*

03/31: A War of Atrocities?

Howard Jones, *My Lai: 1968, Vietnam, and the Descent into Darkness*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Recommended: Bernd Greiner, *War Without Fronts: The USA in Vietnam*; Andrew Hunt, *The Turning: A History of Vietnam Veterans Against the War*; Robert J. Thompson III, *Clear, Hold, and Destroy: Pacification in Phu Yen and the American War in Vietnam*; Nick Turse, *Kill Anything that Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam*

04/07: The Perils of Counterinsurgency

Kevin Boylan, *Losing Binh Dinh: The Failure of Pacification and Vietnamization*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2016.

Recommended: Martin G. Clemis, *The Control War: The Struggle for South Vietnam, 1969-1975*; Neil Sheehan, *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*; Lewis Sorley, *A Better War: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam*; Randall Woods, *Shadow Warrior: William Egan Colby and the CIA*

04/14: Was there a "better war"?

Gregory Daddis, *Withdrawal: Reassessing America's Final Years in Vietnam*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Recommended: Pierre Asselin, *A Bitter Peace: Washington, Hanoi, and the Making of the Paris Agreement*; Jeffrey Kimball, *Nixon's Vietnam War*; James H. Willbanks, *Abandoning Vietnam: How America Left and South Vietnam Lost Its War*

04/21: A War Unending?

Choose one of these four books on the war's wake and afterlife:

1. Michael J. Allen, *Until the Last Man Comes Home: POWs, MIAs, and the Unending War in Vietnam*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

2. Kathleen Belew, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2018.
3. Kyle Burke, *Revolutionaries for the Right: Anticommunist Internationalism and Paramilitary Warfare in the Cold War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018.
4. John Wood, *Veteran Narratives and the Collective Memory of the Vietnam War*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2016.

Final exam due M, 04/26 (5 pm)

6. Course Schedule and Assignments for HIST 3050:

(Dates are adapted from in-person class so as to keep readings and discussions on a schedule – I am offering voluntary discussion meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50 on Teams).

Week 1: Introduction

Read:

Lawrence, Introduction and chapter 1

Keith W. Taylor, “The Vietnamese Civil War of 1955-1975 in Historical Perspective” (Blackboard)

Tu, 01/19 Introduction

Th, 01/21 Vietnam: a history

[Anyone who wants to do so can join group meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50, on Teams. In those meetings we will discuss assigned material and address questions about the historical narrative.

Short lectures (hopefully, no more than 20-25 minutes a piece):

- 1. The Vietnam War: unnecessary, unwinnable, and unending?**
- 2. What do we know about Vietnam’s history (and from whom)?**

Week 2: Indochina at War

Read:

Lawrence, Chapter 2

Nguyen Ai Quoc’s letter to Robert Lansing, June 18, 1919 (Blackboard)

Ho Chi Minh’s Declaration of Independence, Sept. 2, 1945

(<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5139/>)

Ingo Tauschweizer, “American Ways of War since 1945” *International Bibliography of Military History*, 2012 [Blackboard]

Watch:

Vietnam – A Television History: 1. Roots of a War
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UMTL-zQSYw&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=1)

Tu, 01/26 World War II and Decolonization in Asia

Th, 01/28 American Ways of War: Where does Vietnam fit?

Short lectures:

1. 1945 and beyond in East Asia
2. Where does Vietnam fit among America's wars?

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday morning (NLT 10 am): post a question derived from the readings and/or documentary

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday morning (NLT 10 am): respond to someone else's post, integrate the readings/documentary in your response

Week 3: Indochina at War (II)

Recommended movie: *The Quiet American (1958 OR 2002)* – if you choose to write on this film, deadline is Monday, Feb. 1 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Lawrence, Chapter 3

“US Involvement in the Franco-Viet Minh War, 1950-1954,” *The Pentagon Papers*
(<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pentagon/pent6.htm>)

“Hanoi and the Insurgency in Vietnam,” *The Pentagon Papers*
(<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pentagon/pent11.htm> - the assigned section is about 2/3 of the way into this chapter) see if I could get two resolutions (1959 and mid-60s) instead?

Watch:

The Big Picture (1963): “Special Forces: The Hidden War in Vietnam”
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOKeHOr0xw4&t=0s&index=194&list=PL_hX5wLdhf_JwFz5l_3NRAcCYURbOW2Fl); this is a 29-minute episode of a documentary series produced by the Army Pictorial Service and shown on ABC and CBS affiliates

Vietnam - a Television History: 2. America's Mandarin

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOBUyPairkc&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=2)

Tu, 02/02 Why did the US become invested in Vietnam?

Th, 02/04 Our Man in Saigon? Eisenhower, Kennedy, and the Diem regime

Short lectures:

1. The First Indochina War (1945/46-54)
2. The U.S. and the Cold War: Nuclear Deterrence and Flexible Response

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday morning (NLT 10 am): post a question derived from the readings/documentary

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday morning (NLT 10 am): respond to someone else's question, integrate the readings/documentary in your response

Week 4: Escalation, 1961-1965

Recommended movie: *Go Tell the Spartans* (1978) – paper due Monday, Feb. 8 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Lawrence, chapter 4

NSAM 111, Nov. 22, 1961 (<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v01/d272>)

NSAM 273, Nov. 26, 1963

(<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v04/d331>)

Paper Prepared by the Ambassador in Vietnam (Taylor), Nov. 1964

(<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1964-68v01/d426>)

JCS Chairman (Wheeler) to CINCPAC (Sharp), Feb. 27, 1965

(<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1964-68v02/d170>)

Watch:

Vietnam: a Television History – 3. LBJ Goes to War

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpWoj4KtdHA&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPplLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=3) OR (<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x15dgtm>)

Tu, 02/09 **Whose War? John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Le Duan and the Escalation(s) of 1961-1965**

Th, 02/11 **Did the US have a strategy for Vietnam?**

Short lectures:

1. **When and how did the Vietnam War begin?**
2. **Did the US have a strategy?**

Your first Blackboard post is due on Wednesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else's question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 5: The War Effort (I)

Recommended: *Platoon* (1986) OR *We Were Soldiers* (2002) – paper due Monday, Feb. 15 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Wood, Introduction and chapters 1 and 2

Watch:

CBS news special report on the Battle of Ia Drang (Nov. 1965)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDJwgp0vCeg>)

Vietnam: a Television History – 4. America Takes Charge

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6myyhyRIWLU&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPplLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=4)

Tu, 02/16 **Grunts in Vietnam: Who Fought and Why?**

Th, 02/18 **Office hours; writing time**

Short lectures:

1. **Who fought and why?**
2. **What defined soldiers' experiences?**

Fri., Feb. 19 (5 pm): First reading response paper due (Blackboard, Turnitin)

Week 6: The War Effort (II)

Recommended: *The Fog of War* (2003) OR *Good Morning Vietnam* (1987)– paper due Monday, Feb. 22 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Lawrence, chapter 5

Watch:

Vietnam: a Television History – 5. America's Enemy

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCxjESMPGSc&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPplLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=5)

Why the US Lost in Vietnam, February 2013

(<http://www.c-span.org/video/?311102-1/challenges-vietnam-war>). Please watch the first hour, i.e., the initial presentations and debate among the four panelists.

Tu, 02/23 Westmoreland's War? (1965-68)

Th, 02/25 The War Managers: JCS, McNamara, LBJ?

Short lectures:

1. Why is there so much debate over General Westmoreland?
2. Why didn't the U.S. win (1965-68)?

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else's question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 7: The War Effort (III)

Recommended film (documentary): *My Lai* (2010 – episode in the “American Experience” series) – paper due Monday, Mar. 1

Read:

Wood, chapters 3 and 4

Heather Stur, “The Viet Cong Committed Atrocities, Too,” *New York Times*, Dec. 9, 2017:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/19/opinion/vietcong-generals-atrocities.html>

Watch:

Videos on the My Lai massacre: *BBC interview of Hugh Thompson*

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkFa2lSNAGc>); *Interviews with My Lai Veterans* (1970):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klx4TB33BRU>

CBS News, August 1965: The Cam Ne Incident

(<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1023127901144710>)

Tu, 03/02 Multi-layered war

Th, 03/04 A war of atrocities

Short lectures:

1. What happened at My Lai?
2. Atrocities and the Laws of War

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else's question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 8: The War Effort (IV)

Recommended: *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) – paper due Monday, March 8, NLT 5 pm

Read:

Lawrence, chapter 6

Watch/Listen:

Martin Luther King, Jr. speech at Riverside Church (Harlem, NY), April 1967 (text and audio: <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/beyond-vietnam>);

NJ public TV on the July 1967 Newark riots

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxkDJ4cQvTo>);

CBS News, 02/27/1968 (Walter Cronkite's report from Vietnam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Toy2wFBkmg>);

LBJ's March 31, 1968 address to the nation (select passages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxWGG3AARnI>);

CBS News retrospective on the DNC Convention riots, Chicago 1968

(<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/remembering-1968-chicagos-bloody-democratic-convention/>)

Vietnam: a Television History – 6. Tet

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLtrdXigRGQ&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpLLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=6) OR (<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x15ddj5>)

Tu, 03/09 Tet, 1968: Tactical Victory, Political Defeat?

Th, 03/11 1968 in America

Short lectures:

1. Why did the Tet Offensive shake the U.S.?

2. Why didn't the war end in 1968?

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else's question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 9: The War Effort (V)

Recommended: *Hamburger Hill* (1987) – paper due Monday, March 15 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Lawrence, chapter 7

Kevin M. Boylan, "The Red Queen's Race: Operation Washington Green and Pacification, 1969-70" (*Blackboard*)

Listen:

Podcast by War Room (US Army War College) on strategy and tactics in Vietnam, 1968-73:

<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/tet-offensive-ep-1/>

Watch:

Vietnam: a Television History – 7. Vietnamizing the War

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eigMnliWKxs&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpLLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=7)

Tu, 03/16 Creighton Abrams's Better War?

Th, 03/18 Nixon's War: Cold War, Vietnamization, and Escalation

Short lectures:

1. Why do we think the U.S. war effort changed and improved in 1968?

2. What happened when Richard Nixon became president?

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else's question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 10: Coming Home from War

Recommended: *Coming Home* (1978) – paper due Monday, March 22 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Wood, chapter 5

“North Vietnamese veterans’ stories,” BBC, 9 July 2015 (<http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-33408096?SThisFB>)

John Kerry, April 1971, Testimony in Senate Hearing (read at:

<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/3631>; or watch at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucY7JOfg6G4>);

Patrick McLaughlin on Life as a veteran and OU student

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf0rOkWgZu0>)

Watch:

Vietnam: a Television History – 8. Cambodia and Laos

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3NvccZtno&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR5-i_ISKl2y&index=8)

Tu, 03/23 Coming Home from the Vietnam War

Th, 03/25 Office hours; writing time

Short lectures:

1. Veterans and Protests

Fri., Mar. 26 (5 pm): Second reading response paper due (Blackboard, Turnitin)

Week 11: Richard Nixon’s Peace?

Recommended: *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989) – paper due Monday, March 29 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Richard Nixon, “Address to the Nation on the War in Vietnam,” Nov. 3, 1969

(<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/address-the-nation-the-war-vietnam>) or

watch the outtakes linked on Blackboard;

Seymour Lipset, “Polls and Protest, *Foreign Affairs*, April 1971

(<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/24259/seymour-m-lipset/polls-and-protests>)

Paris Peace Accords, Jan. 1973

(<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/vietnam/treaty.htm>)

Watch:

CBS Evening News on the May 1970 Kent State shooting

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmd6CHah7Wg>);

ABC News report, Jan. 27, 1973: [https://abcnews.go.com/International/video/jan-27-](https://abcnews.go.com/International/video/jan-27-1973-paris-peace-accords-signed-signaling-52389710)

[1973-paris-peace-accords-signed-signaling-52389710](https://abcnews.go.com/International/video/jan-27-1973-paris-peace-accords-signed-signaling-52389710)

Vietnam: a Television History – 9. Peace is at Hand ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC-ILFNqfbc&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR5-i_ISKl2y&index=9)

[ILFNqfbc&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR5-i_ISKl2y&index=9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC-ILFNqfbc&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR5-i_ISKl2y&index=9))

Vietnam: a Television History – 10. Homefront USA

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrgw0CKI4zo&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrgw0CKI4zo&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR5-i_ISKl2y&index=10)

[5-i_ISKl2y&index=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrgw0CKI4zo&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpILR5-i_ISKl2y&index=10))

Tu, 03/30 At the Home Front

Th, 04/01 Nixon’s Peace?

Short lectures:

1. Framing Defeat: Who was to blame?

2. Making Peace: What kind an agreement was Paris, 1973?

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Friday (10 am): respond to someone else’s question, integrate the readings in your response

Option due on what final/term paper you intend to write (Th. April 1, 5 pm)

Week 12: Abandoning Vietnam

Recommended: *The Killing Fields* (1984) – paper due Monday, April 5 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Malcolm W. Browne, “How Did it Happen?” *The New York Times*, April 24, 1975
(<http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/asia/042475vietnam-why-mb.html>)

Watch/Listen:

Gerald Ford, April 23, 1975: Speech at Tulane

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuoQe6f189g>)

Vietnam: a Television History – 11. *The End of the Tunnel*

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNfg8mfpubw&list=PLB1PKHg8oRxlZCsWBgPpLLR5-i_ISKl2y&index=11)

Tu, 04/06 The War after Paris

Th, 04/08 From Tragedy (1975) to Triumph (1989/91)?

Short lectures:

1. The Fall of Saigon
2. The U.S. in 1975 (and in 1991)

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else’s question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 13: Lessons and Legacies (I)

Recommended: *Rambo, First Blood* (1982) OR *Rambo, First Blood, Part II* (1985) – paper due Monday April 12 (NLT 5 pm)

Read:

Lawrence, chapter 8

Wood, chapter 6

Robert J. McMahon, “SHAFR Presidential Address – Contested Memory: The Vietnam War and American Society, 1975-2001” (Blackboard)

David Petraeus, “Lessons of History and Lessons of Vietnam” (Blackboard)

Tu, 04/13 Lessons of Vietnam? Armed Forces and Foreign Policy

Th, 04/15 Legacies of Vietnam? American political culture

Short lectures:

1. Overcoming Vietnam? What did the armed forces learn?
2. Overcoming Vietnam? How did foreign policy change?
3. Overcoming Vietnam? How did political culture shift?

Your first Blackboard post is due on Tuesday (10 am): post a question derived from the readings

Your second Blackboard post is due on Thursday (10 am): respond to someone else’s question, integrate the readings in your response

Week 14: Lessons and Legacies (II)

Read:

Wood, chapter 7 and conclusion

Robert Jay Lifton, *Home from the War: Learning from Vietnam Veterans* (1973),

Prologue and chapter 1 (Blackboard)

Tu, 04/20 Veterans and Narratives: A war for all ages?

Th, 04/22 *Retrospective and Review*

Short lectures:

1. PTSD and the Vietnam War
2. Why are we still talking about the Vietnam War?

Term due Tuesday, Apr. 27 (noon) – Blackboard, Turnitin