

COURSE SYLLABUS: SOCIAL SCIENCE 351
THE VIETNAM WARS/VIETNAM: REVOLUTION IN FULL CIRCLE
SPRING 2005

Professor: Christopher K. Riggs
Office Location: Spalding 109
Office Hours:
 1:30-4:15 PM Tues,
 1:00-2:45 PM Mon & Wed,
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OVERVIEW

This course explores the intersection of Vietnamese and American history. Particular attention is paid to the period from 1940-1975. Events prior to World War II and after 1975 will be discussed in order to illuminate, respectively, the rise of Vietnamese nationalism and the legacy of the thirty-five-year period for both the United States and Vietnam.

In addition, since this is a 351 course, we will examine how the intersection of Vietnamese and American history in the 20th century illustrates different ethical and value systems and value and ethical conflicts.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the course, you should have a greater knowledge of American-Vietnamese relations and ethical and value issues. In addition, you should be able to analyze and assess this knowledge in both written and verbal form.

COURSE FORMAT

The course format will consist of lecture and discussion sessions, supplemented by some audio-visual presentations (videos, etc.).

Please note that in preparation for discussions, you may be asked to read material in advance and to write answers to a series of questions and to turn in your answers to me at the end of the session.

ATTENDANCE

I will not be taking a formal roll call. However, you are responsible for all material presented and discussed during all class sessions whether or not you are present. In addition, students who attend class

regularly and who participate constructively in class discussions will likely receive the higher mark in the case of borderline grades.

I request that you arrive to class on time; if you anticipate that you might be late, please let me know. Also, please let me know if you need to leave class early.

READINGS

The books for this course are:

Robert D. Schulzinger, A Time for War (1997).

Graham Greene, The Quiet American (1955).

Thomas Zeiler, Dean Rusk (2000).

Le Ly Hayslip w/Jay Wurts, When Heaven and Earth Changed Places (1989).

ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade will be based on how many points you earn out of a possible 375. You earn points by doing the following things.

Participation

Participation is valued at 100 points. Among other things, participation involves reading material to be discussed in class beforehand, active engagement in class discussions (listening and speaking), asking relevant questions, and good faith efforts to grapple with course material. Earning a high participation grade, of course, will require you to attend class regularly. To gauge participation, you may occasionally be asked to sign in or turn in evidence of your work during class.

Actions during class which will cause you to lose participation points include (but are not limited to) sleeping or putting your head down on the desk, reading newspapers or magazines, doing other homework, leaving early without checking with the instructor beforehand, and talking while the instructor or another student or guest speaker is speaking. Such actions can be very disruptive and show disrespect toward other students and the instructor; they are not acceptable.

Book Discussions

In addition to regular discussions, there will be class periods devoted in whole or in part to the discussion of Quiet American, When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, and Dean Rusk. Participation in each discussion will be worth 25 points (75 points total).

Papers

You will be asked to write several papers. A separate handout will explain the paper assignments in more detail.

A 3-5 page paper discussing and analyzing a value or value conflict or ethic or ethical conflict in The Quiet American, 50 points.

A 3-5 page paper discussing and analyzing a value or value conflict or ethical conflict in When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, 50 points.

A 3-5 page paper discussing and analyzing a value or value conflict or ethic or ethical conflict in Dean Rusk, 50 points.

Papers turned in after the deadline will be subject to a point penalty. Each day after the due date, the penalty will be five points per day. I will drop your lowest paper grade.

Exams

There will be final exam worth 100 points. More information on the exam will be provided.

GRADING

I will grade using the following scale:

93-100% = A	90-92 = A-	
88-89% = B+	83-86 = B	80-82 = B-
78-79% = C+	73-76 = C	70-72 = C-
68-69% = D+	63-66 = D	60-62 = D-
59% and below = F		

MAKE UP EXAMS

I will permit make up exams only under special circumstances. Please let me know as soon as possible (preferably before the exam) about the situation that has caused you or will cause you to miss the exam so that a make up can be arranged.

CHEATING

Cheating (including plagiarism) is unacceptable. Anyone who I find to be engaged in cheating will receive an automatic F grade for the assignment and may receive an F grade for the course and be reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations for exam-taking and the like must consult with me no later than two weeks before the first quiz or exam.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative schedule (with the emphasis on tentative!) of the topics we will address in class. I have included are the due dates for the paper as well as the dates for the midterm exam and the final exam.

A Time for War = TW

Jan 11

Introduction; Values, Ethics, and Conflict

Readings:

Jan 18

Vietnamese Nationalism and Colonialism

Readings: TW, chap. 1

Jan 25

The French Indochina War and American Involvement, 1945-1954

Readings: TW, chaps. 2-3

Feb 1

Vietnam and "Nation Building," 1955-1960

Readings: TW, chap. 4; **DISCUSSION OF THE QUIET AMERICAN**

Feb 8

Kennedy and Escalating American Involvement, 1961-1963

Readings: TW, chap. 5

Feb 15

The "American War" Begins, 1964-1965

Readings: TW, chaps. 6-7

FEB 15: TURN IN QUIET AMERICAN PAPER

Feb 22

Fighting the War, 1965-1968

Readings: TW, chap. 8

Mar 1

The War and American Society

Readings: TW, chap. 9; **DISCUSSION OF DEAN RUSK**

Mar 8
The War and American Society (con't)
Readings:

WEEK OF MAR 14: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Mar 22
The War and Vietnamese Society
Readings: **DISCUSSION OF WHEN HEAVEN AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES**

Mar 29
The War and Vietnamese Society (con't)
Readings:

Apr 5
Turning Point: 1968
Readings: TW, chap. 10

APR 5: TURN IN DEAN RUSK PAPER

Apr 12
The War and Nixon, 1969-1973
Readings: TW, chap. 11

Apr 19
The End of the War
Readings: TW, chap. 12

APR 19: WHEN HEAVEN AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES PAPER DUE

Apr 26
The Legacy of the Vietnam Wars
Readings: TW, pp. 328-336

May 3
Catch Up and Review
Readings: Whatever you need to finish

TUES, MAY 10, 6:30 PM: FINAL EXAM

SOCIAL SCIENCE 351: VIETNAM
VALUES & ETHICS/VALUE & ETHICAL CONFLICT PAPERS

As mentioned in the syllabus, you will be required to write three papers about three of the assigned books. The first paper will focus on Graham Greene's novel *The Quiet American*. The second will focus on Thomas Zeiler's *Dean Rusk*. The third paper will focus on Le Ly Hayslip's memoir *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*. Each paper is worth 50 points. See syllabus for due dates.

Your papers will explore some aspect of the values/ethics and/or value/ethical conflicts discussed in each book. For example, for the paper on *Quiet American*, you could analyze the value/ethical conflict implicit in the running debate between Pyle (an American) and Fowler (a European) over what Vietnamese society should become and the role of the United States should play in shaping Vietnam's future. For the paper on *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, you could analyze the traditional values of the Vietnamese peasants and how the war between pro- and anti-communist forces altered those values. For *Dean Rusk*, you could examine what values led Rusk to favor U.S. involvement in Vietnam. I emphasize that these are only suggestions. The main thing is that your paper address the issue of values and/or value conflicts in each book.

Your paper should be written in standard essay format. (1) You should have an introductory paragraph in which your first sentence is a general statement about your topic and your last sentence of the paragraph is your thesis statement. (2) You should have several body paragraph in which you present your evidence. (3) You should have a conclusion paragraph in which you restate your thesis in the first sentence and briefly mention your key pieces of evidence. Your final sentence should be a general statement about your topic.

Additional important points to keep in mind:

Each paper should be 3-5 pages in length, double spaced, and typed in 10 or 12 point font.

If you quote from the book you are using, be sure to cite it by putting the last name of the author and the page number(s) in parenthesis at the end of the quotation (Martinez 45).

You are welcome to use sources other than the book you are writing about. But you need to acknowledge that you are using an additional source by citing the source in the text of your paper even if you are not quoting from the source and by putting the source in your bibliography.