

Social Sciences 351.01
Values: Vietnam
Lewis-Clark State College
Spring 2006

Professor: Christopher K. Riggs

Office: Spalding 109

Office Hours: 8:00-10:15 AM Mon & Wed; noon-1:15 PM Tues; whenever you catch me in the office; and by appointment

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Webpage: www.lcsc.edu/criggs (Please note that the webpage will include copies of the syllabus, study guides, and other documents relevant to the course.)

OVERVIEW

This course will examine Vietnamese society and history - particularly that nation's relationship with the United States in the 20th century - in order to explore the question of values and value conflicts.

PURPOSE/GOALS

Specifically and ideally, the course should help you develop a demonstrable understanding of Vietnam-U.S. relations in the 20th century and how that relationship provides a vehicle for thinking about and understanding values and value conflicts. More generally, as a Social Science course, SS 351 should help you to:

- conduct social science research
- think analytically about social phenomena
- understand and apply social science theories, concepts, and categories
- read and analyze works dealing with social science issues
- write a clear, concise, and organized paper
- give a clear, concise, and organized oral presentation
- demonstrate knowledge of one of the Social Science Program's emphases
- understand and evaluate qualitative and quantitative evidence related to social issues
- demonstrate a knowledge of the history and theory of social thought
- demonstrate a knowledge of major periods and trends of society
- demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of multicultural perspectives
- comprehend the social origins and value of the diversity of human behavior.

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 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. Also, attendance may be considered in regard to determining your participation grade (see below).

I request that you arrive to class on time and stay for the entire time; if you anticipate that you might be late or need to leave early, please let me know.

READINGS

Everyone will be asked to read from the following books. Copies are available in the LCSC Library on reserve and at the LCSC bookstore.

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

Graham Greene, The Quiet American (1955).

Leroy TeCubie, Year in Nam (1999).

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

EXPECTATIONS/ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade will be based on how many points you earn out of a possible 475. You earn points by doing the following things.

Participation

Participation is valued at 75 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. 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.

Papers

You will be asked to write several papers. Separate handouts will explain the paper assignments in more detail.

A 2-3 page paper on The Quiet American, 50 points.

A 2-3 page paper on When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, 50 points; **OR** a 2-3 page paper on Year in Nam, 50 points.

A 8-10 page paper comparing and contrasting When Heaven and Earth Changed Places and Year in Nam, worth 100 points. You will have the option of rewriting and turning in a second draft of this paper, if you are unsatisfied with the grade you get on the first draft you submit. If you do so, I will re-grade your paper and average the two grades to determine your final grade on this paper.

Exams

There will be two exams, each worth 100 points (200 total). More information to come.

Extra Credit

You will have the option to do a maximum of two extra credit assignments, worth up to ten points total. Students should check with me before proceeding with any extra credit work. Please note that the more complex and difficult the project, the more points you are likely to earn. Some potential extra credit projects include writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a relevant film; article in a magazine, journal, or newspaper; source on the Internet. Extra credit may be turned in anytime before May 3.

Note that you must cite any source that you use in your extra credit project (author and title of article, title of film, web address, etc.)

Late Penalty

The shorter papers should be turned in at the start of the class period on the due date. The longer comparison/contrast paper should be turned in no later than 5:00 PM on the due date. Please also be aware that there will be a point penalty for late work.

GRADING

I will grade using the following scale:

93-100% = A	90-92 = A-	
88-89% = B+	83-87 = B	80-82 = B-
78-79% = C+	73-77 = C	70-72 = C-
68-69% = D+	63-67 = 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. **NOTE THAT MAKE UP EXAMS MAY BE OF A DIFFERENT FORMAT THAN THE REGULAR EXAMS.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Class policy is the same as that of the college. As explained in the LCSC Student Handbook: Code of Conduct:

<<http://www.lcsc.edu/studentservices/SHBcodeofconduct.htm>>

Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The College functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- a) Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term "academic exercise" includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.
- b) Fabrication—intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise.
- c) Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty.
- d) Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statement of another person as one's own without acknowledgment.

Anyone found in any of the above activities or related activities will be subject to penalty. Such penalty may include failing a particular assignment, failing the course, and/or additional sanctions imposed by the college.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations for exam-taking should please consult with the instructor as soon as possible.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative schedule (with the emphasis on tentative!) of the topics we will address in class. I have indicated the relevant due dates.

A Time for War = TW

Week of Jan 16

Introduction; Values, Ethics, and Conflict

Readings:

Week of Jan 23

Values, Ethics, and Conflict (con't); Vietnamese Nationalism and Colonialism

Readings: TW, chap. 1

Week of Jan 30

The French Indochina War and American Involvement, 1945-1954

Readings: TW, chaps. 2-3

Week of Feb 6

Vietnam and "Nation Building," 1955-1960

Readings: TW, chap. 4

Week of Feb 13

Kennedy and Escalating American Involvement, 1961-1963

Readings: TW, chap. 5

FEB 15: TURN IN QUIET AMERICAN PAPER; DISCUSS QUIET AMERICAN

FEB 20: NO CLASS

Week of Feb 20

The "American War" Begins, 1964-1965

Readings: TW, chaps. 6-7

Week of Feb 27

Fighting the War, 1965-1968

Readings: TW, chap. 8

Week of Mar 6

The War and American Society

Readings: TW, chap. 9

MAR 8: TURN IN YEAR IN NAM PAPER; DISCUSS YEAR IN NAM

Week of Mar 13

The War and American Society (con't)

Readings:

MAR 13: MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK OF MAR 20: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Week of Mar 27

The War and Vietnamese Society

Readings:

MAR 31: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES OR COLLEGE

APR 3: TURN IN WHEN HEAVEN AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES; DISCUSS

Week of Apr 3

The War and Vietnamese Society (con't)

Readings:

Week of Apr 10

Turning Point: 1968

Readings: TW, chap. 10

Week of Apr 17

The War and Nixon, 1969-1973

Readings: TW, chap. 11

APR 19: NO CLASS; WORK ON PAPERS

Week of Apr 24

The End of the War

Readings: TW, chap. 12

APR 24: PAPER COMPARING YEAR IN NAM AND WHEN HEAVEN AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES DUE

Week of May 1

The Legacy of the Vietnam Wars

Readings: TW, pp. 328-336

MAY 3: LAST DAY TO SUBMIT EXTRA CREDIT

Week of May 8

Catch Up and Review

Readings: Whatever you need to finish

MAY 10: OPTIONAL RE-WRITES DUE

MAY 15 (MON): FINAL EXAM