

**University of North Carolina at Greensboro**  
**HIS 382D-01: Viet Nam: History, Culture, and Resistance**

Spring 2017

MWF 1100am-1150am

MHRA 2207

Instructor: James A. Anderson

Telephone: (336) 334-5204

Office: 2129 MHRA

E-mail: [jamie\\_anderson@uncg.edu](mailto:jamie_anderson@uncg.edu) (This is the best way to contact me throughout the week.)

Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS588>

Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50 a.m., and by appointment

**Graduate Assistant:**

Leslie Leonard, E-mail: [ljleonar@uncg.edu](mailto:ljonar@uncg.edu)

**Introduction:**

In the eyes of many Americans, there is little separation between the image of “Vietnam” and the tragic outcome of US involvement in the Second Indochina War. However, Vietnam as a nation and the Vietnamese as a people have existed in the region for over two thousand years, fighting during much of this time for both political autonomy and cultural self-identity. During the course of its history, Vietnam’s military adversary and cultural ally has often been China. Conversely, Chinese leaders have long believed that their empire shared a special bond with Vietnam, which at times promoted the impulse to subjugate their smaller neighbor. This course will consider the history of wars fought on Vietnamese soil within the larger context of political, social and cultural change. The course themes include; resistance of foreign aggression as an integral part of the Vietnamese nationalist narrative, Vietnamese self-identity in the shadow of Chinese domination, and the anti-colonial origins of the Vietnamese nationalist and Communist movements. It is my desire that, after the completion of this course, we will have a larger historical context in which we can more clearly evaluate the events of the last 50 years.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis: Departmental and GEC GHP goal]
3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]
4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation: Departmental and GEC GHP]

Students taking this course should also reach the following course-specific goals:

- ❑ Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- ❑ Understand better the effect the ancient past has had on the modern world.
- ❑ Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

## Course Requirements

I expect all students to attend and participate in all discussion sections. More than five absences during the course of the semester, for any reason, will result in a failing grade. Moreover, the completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade. No “incompletes” will be given for this class. Please remember to plan ahead! I will also require that all students establish UNCG e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction through the course Canvas site between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. Please set up these email accounts for regular access on your device of choice as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

There will be a take-home final exam, five in-class “half-hourly” quizzes (including a map quiz), and two 5-7 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1” margins, paginated) “think piece” papers. The first paper from the “Saigon, 1963” role-playing exercise will be due in class on **Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. The second paper assignment based on *The Sympathizer* is due in class on **Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. The schedule for the five in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**. As noted above, attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected and the completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.

## Grading

<b>Skills Quiz</b>	<i>Ungraded</i>	
<b>5 Graded Quizzes</b>	<b>30%</b>	(6% each)
<b>Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, participation)</b>	<b>20%</b>	
*Film Responses	(10%)	
*Canvas Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections	(10%)	
<b>“Saigon, 1963” Think Piece Paper</b>	<b>15%</b>	
<b><i>The Sympathizer</i> Think Piece Paper</b>	<b>15%</b>	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>	

### Quizzes (Learning Goals 1, 4):

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. All assigned readings will be addressed, either during lectures or during

discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period. **No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class.** Instead, your lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped from your cumulative course score, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once the first quiz is dropped, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

### **Ungraded Skills Quiz:**

The ungraded skills quiz on **Monday, January 23** will be only time you will have a map exercise. For this quiz I will ask you to use the map on the back of the quiz to name and locate the following places: (1) Hanoi, (2) Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), (3) Hue, (4) Da Nang, (5) Dien Bien Phu, (6) Cao Bang, (7) Con Dao Islands, (8) China, (9) Laos, (10) Cambodia. A map is included at the end of this syllabus for your reference.

### **Final Take-home Examination** (Learning Goals 1, 4):

There is a 5 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute three or four questions on the last day of the course, and you will be required to construct an essay that clearly answers two of these questions while using the primary sources and secondary provided for the class. **The exams will be due in my office (2135 MHRA) no later than 3pm on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.** We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

## **CANVAS ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Film Responses** (Learning Goal 1):

Four in-class film screenings will take place throughout the semester. Written responses to the film guide questions (provided in class) will always be due the Monday evening at 11:59pm following the film. (Example. For the film shown on **Friday, March 10**, the written response is due **Sunday, March 12 by 11:59pm.**) Prior to each screening, you will receive a film-guide handout featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare well-written and thoughtful responses to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each of 3-5 questions present. **These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Canvas by the following Sunday at midnight.** These due dates are listed on the Canvas forums themselves. **All film responses are required assignments.**

\*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located in the collection at the Jackson Library.

### **Discussion Questions and Discussion Reflections** (Learning Goals 1, 2, 4):

During many Friday classes you will splinter into several smaller groups to discuss primary sources illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these activities, you are expected to read the assigned sources and prepare two well-considered discussion questions for presentation in class. **These questions must be posted to the appropriate forum on Canvas by the preceding Thursday at 11:59pm. Print and bring these questions with you to your Friday class to present among your discussion group.**

Following each discussion you are responsible for submitting a one-paragraph (3-5 sentences) discussion reflection or summary. **These reflections must be posted to the appropriate forum on Canvas by the following Sunday at 11:59pm.** Were there points in the text that you wish had been discussed or elaborated upon in greater depth? Have you come to a new understanding of the text since the Friday meeting? If so, please feel free to note those points here.

Discussion Questions and Reflections will be evaluated together as one assignment by the Graduate Assistant. **Late submissions will receive no credit. You are required to submit at least 8 (8) Discussion Questions and Reflections during the semester to receive a passing grade.**

\*If you are unfamiliar with Canvas, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

The written exercises will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus scale. If you receive straight “checks” for all exercises, you will have earned a “B” for this part of the course. To earn a “check-plus” you need to demonstrate that you have thought imaginatively about the question and have put some genuine effort into your answer. The purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam.

### **Web-site**

This class is served by a companion Canvas site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. I will continue to expand the Canvas site as the quarter progresses. Here students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Please refer to the class site periodically for such materials.

### **“Think Piece” Papers** (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, 4):

The “think piece” paper, to be written on assigned topics, will be based on your readings, section discussions, and the lectures. The first paper will be based on our lectures, the textbook *Vietnam: A New History* and various primary sources from *Sources of Vietnamese Tradition*. The second paper will be based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Sympathizer* (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, 4). These papers are not research papers; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. **Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

### **Web-based exercise (Learning Goal 1):**

During the second week of class I will ask you to visit the travel web site *Festivals in Vietnam* at <http://festivalinvietnam.org/>. In a short three-sentence response, please indicate the festival you would most like to attend and why. Please post your response to the appropriate forum on Canvas.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In this class I expect that everyone will abide by the UNCG Student Code of Conduct when submitting all assignment to avoid plagiarizing the work of others and to avoid the appearance of plagiarism. Please refer to the Students Code of Conduct in the Student Policy Handbook, posted online by the Division of Student Affairs (<http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/student-code-of-conduct/>). If you have any questions regarding plagiarism and other academic integrity violations, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

### Required Titles:

Goscha, Christopher E. *Vietnam: A New History*. New York: Basic Books, 2016. ISBN: 9780465094363.

Dutton, George Edson, Jayne Susan Werner, and John K. Whitmore. *Sources of Vietnamese Tradition*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012. ISBN: 9780231138628. \*Also available as an e-book via the UNCG Library Catalog.

Nguyen, Viet Thanh. *The Sympathizer*. New York: Grove Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780802124944.

All other materials for this course will be available on electronic reserve at the course Canvas site.

<b>READING SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>WEEK'S TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS AND DISCUSSION</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>January 18:</b> Course “nuts and bolts” and topical introduction. Primary source analysis exercise.	<b>Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 1-11. 2. Karl Marlantes’s <i>NYT</i> Article on Canvas 3. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 473-476. 4. How to read primary sources ( <b>Canvas</b> )
<b>Friday, January 20</b>	<b>No class today.</b>
<b>VIETNAM UNDER NORTHERN CONTROL</b>	
<b>January 23-27:</b> Defining Characteristics of Vietnamese Society. Han Domination and Local Resistance. The Rise of the Dai Viet State. Mongol Invasions.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 12-29. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 9-14, 28-37. 3. Web-based Vietnamese Festival Exercise (Please see syllabus for instructions.)
<b>SKILLS QUIZ, Monday 23 January</b>	<b>Ungraded, but <u>required</u> of all students</b>
<b>NOTE: Saturday, January 28</b>	<b>Tết Holiday 2017</b>
<b>VIETNAM DURING THE EARLY IMPERIAL PERIOD</b>	
<b>January 30- February 3:</b> Ming Invasion and Local Resistance. Vietnam’s colonizing “March South.” The Tay Son Rebellion.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 29-44. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 89-93, 111-115, 147-153, 215-219.
<b>VIETNAM DURING THE HIGH IMPERIAL PERIOD</b>	
<b>February 6-10:</b> The Founding of the Nguyen, Vietnam’s Final Dynasty. The Gia Long and Minh Mang Emperors. The Black Flags.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 45-72. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 253-260, 265-273, 299-306.
<b>GRADED QUIZ 1, Monday 6 February</b>	
<b>February 13-17:</b> Vietnam’s Struggle with Western Powers. French Imperialist Expansion.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 73-93. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 317-320.
<b>VIETNAMESE SOCIETY UNDER THE FRENCH</b>	

<b>February 20-24:</b> Colonial Vietnamese Society Under the French. Early Vietnamese Radicals.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 94-122. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 335-337, 369-375, 429-444.
<b>GRADED QUIZ 2, Monday 20 February</b>	
<b>February 27-March 1:</b> The leadership of the ICP and Ho Chi Minh. WWII in Vietnam.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 123-181. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 397-402, 424-429.
<b>Friday, March 3</b>	<b>No Class today.</b>
<b>THE FRENCH CONFLICT IN VIETNAM</b>	
<b>March 8-10:</b> The First Indochina War	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 182-272. <b>Film:</b> <i>First Vietnam War: 1946-54</i>
<b>GRADED QUIZ 3, Wednesday 8 March</b>	
<b>Monday, March 6</b>	<b>No Class today.</b>

**SPRING BREAK:**

**March 11, Saturday Instruction ends for Spring Break, 1:00 p.m.**

**March 20, Monday Classes resume after Spring Break, 8:00 a.m.**

<b>WEEK'S TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS AND DISCUSSION</b>
<b>March 20-24:</b> The RVN Government and the ARVN during Early US Involvement.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 273-303. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 476-486. <b>Film:</b> <i>America's Mandarin: 1954-1963</i>
<b>March 27-31: "Saigon, 1963": Role-playing exercise.</b>	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 304-318. 2. Readings from Dutton's <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> . 3. Additional Readings on Canvas
<b>April 3-7:</b> Ha Noi's early strategy in the Second Indochinese Conflict. Escalation in US Involvement.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i> , pp. 319-339. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 454-463.

	<b>Film:</b> <i>With America's Enemy: 1954-67</i>
<b>GRADED QUIZ 4, Monday 3 April</b>	
<b>Friday, April 7</b>	<b>“Saigon 1963” Think Piece Papers due in class.</b>
<b>April 10-12:</b> The 1968 Tet Offensive.	<p><b>Required Reading:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ngo Vinh Long “The Tet Offensive and Its Aftermath” in Marc Jason Gilbert and William Head, eds., <i>The Tet Offensive</i>. (<b>Canvas e-reserve</b>).</li> <li>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 463-473.</li> </ol> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Tet: 1968</i></p>
<b>April 14, Friday</b>	<b>Spring holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed.</b>
<b>April 17-21:</b> The End of US Involvement in the Second Indochina Conflict.	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i>, pp. 333-339.</li> <li>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 486-489.</li> </ol>
<b>THE LEGACY OF WAR</b>	
<b>April 24-28:</b> The Third Indochina War. Vietnam in the Post-war Era. Doi Moi Reforms. The Legacy of the Second Indochinese War in VN Society. The Vietnamese Diaspora.	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i>, pp. 372-403.</li> <li>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 554-564.</li> </ol> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Journey from the Fall (scenes)</i></p>
<b>GRADED QUIZ 5, Monday 24 April</b>	
<b>May 1-2:</b> Vietnam in the Past Ten Years.	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Goscha, <i>Vietnam: A New History</i>, pp. 404-461.</li> </ol>
<b>MONDAY, MAY 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>FINAL “THINK PIECE” PAPERS DUE</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 2</b>	<b>University follows Friday schedule; last day of classes.</b>



