

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

Spring 2023

MW 2:00pm-3:15pm

MHRA 2209

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

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

**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 discipline-specific 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]
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]

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

There will be a take-home final exam, five in-class “half-hourly” quizzes, an ungraded skills quiz, and three 3-4 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1” margins, paginated, using Chicago-style footnotes) "think piece" papers. The first paper will be due on Canvas on **Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The second paper is due in class **Monday March 27<sup>th</sup>**. The third paper is due on Canvas on **Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. The schedule for the six in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** and it must be posted to Canvas on **Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Attendance will be recorded for each class meeting. Missing more than five classes will have an adverse impact on the participation portion of the final grade. Moreover, the completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.

## COVID-19 Policy:

*As we return for spring 2023, please uphold UNCG’s culture of care to limit the spread of covid-19 and other airborne illnesses. These actions include, but are not limited to:*

- **Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene**
- **Self-monitoring for symptoms of covid-19**
- **Staying home when ill**
- **Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to isolate if ill**
- **Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing covid-19 symptoms or testing positive for covid-19**
- **Following the CDC's [exposure guidelines](#) when exposed to someone who has tested positive for covid-19**

Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [covid-19](#) website

## 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, attendance)</b>	<b>20%</b>
*Film Responses	(10%)
*Canvas Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections	(10%)
<b><i>Dumb Luck</i> Think Piece Paper (3-4 pages)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>“Saigon 1963” Think Piece Paper (3-4 pages)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b><i>The Mountains Sing</i> Think Piece Paper (3-4 pages)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Take-home Final Examination (750 words)</b>	<b>20%</b>

**Letter grades will be assigned as follows:**

97-100 A+  
93-96 A  
90-92 A-  
87-89 B+  
83-86 B  
80-82 B-  
77-79 C+  
73-76 C  
70-72 C-  
67-69 D+  
63-66 D  
60-62 D-  
<60 F

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

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, 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**

No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class. Instead, you may drop one of your five graded quizzes, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once you have missed one quiz, 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 6-8 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 and secondary sources provided for the class. The exams will be posted to Canvas **no later than 11:59pm on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. We'll talk more about this exam later in the course. **Late exams will receive no credit.**

**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 Sunday evening at 11:59pm following the film. (One exception: For the film shown on **Wednesday, March 3**, 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):

Many Wednesdays we'll have in-person discussions in the classroom and through Canvas to discuss primary and secondary sources illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these discussions, please post a brief passage from an assigned reading. You don't say why you chose the passage. The passage may be a point that confused you, summarized an important point perfectly, or it may be a point that you completely disagree with. **Please post your passage to the appropriate forum on Canvas by the preceding Tuesday evening at 11:59pm.**

Following your Friday in-person discussion, please offer on Canvas in the relevant discussion thread your interpretations of at least two passages offered by two different classmates and comment on at least two interpretations you received for your passage. **Please post your interpretations by Friday at 11:59pm.**

During the weekend you are responsible for submitting a one-paragraph (3-5 sentences) discussion reflection, reveal the reasoning behind your choice as well as your reactions to other student comments. These reflections must be posted to the appropriate forum on Canvas by the following **Sunday evening at 11:59pm.** Were there points in the passage that you wish had been discussed or elaborated upon in greater depth? Have you come to a new understanding of the passage (or the article) since the Wednesday meeting? If so, please feel free to note those points here. The written exercises will be graded on a 8-point scale. If you receive straight "6s" for all exercises, you will have earned a "B" for this part of the course. To earn an "eight" 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 reading, analyzing and writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam.

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

## Academic Integrity Policy:

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. Each student is required to include and sign the Academic Integrity Policy pledge on all major work submitted for the course:

**I HAVE ABIDED BY THE UNCG ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please refer to Appendix A of the Academic Integrity Policy as stated on the UNCG website at URL: <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

## Special Accommodations:

Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, 336.334.5440, <http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>, [ods@uncg.edu](mailto:ods@uncg.edu). If you have a documented disability and want to discuss academic accommodations, please talk with me before the end of the second week.

## 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 the novel *Dumb Luck*. The second paper will be based on the “Saigon 1963” role-playing game and the accompanying primary sources. The third paper is based on the novel *The Mountains Sing* (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.

**Required Titles:**

Kiernan, Ben. *Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present*. New York City: Oxford University Press, 2017. ISBN: 9780190053796. \*Also available as an e-book via the UNCG Library Catalog.

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.

Vũ Trọng Phụng, and Peter Zinoman. *Dumb Luck : A Novel*. Translated by Nguyễn Nguyệt Cẩm and Peter Zinoman. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002. ISBN: 9780472068043.

Nguyễn Phan Quê Mai. *The Mountains Sing: A Novel* First ed. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2020. ISBN: 9781616208189. \*Also available as an e-book via the UNCG Library Catalog.

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

READING SCHEDULE	
WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>9-11 January:</b> Course “nuts and bolts” and topical introduction. Primary source analysis exercise.	<b>Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Intro. pp. 1-19. 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>VIETNAM UNDER NORTHERN CONTROL</b>	
<b>18 January:</b> Defining Characteristics of Vietnamese Society. Han Domination and Local Resistance.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapters 1-3. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 25-27. 3. Web-based Vietnamese Festival Exercise (Please see syllabus for instructions.)
<b>Monday, January 16</b>	<b>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed.</b>
<b>NOTE: Sunday, January 22</b>	<b>Tết Holiday 2023</b>
<b>VIETNAM DURING THE EARLY IMPERIAL PERIOD</b>	
<b>23-25 January:</b> The Rise of the Dai Viet State. Mongol Invasions. Ming Invasion and Local Resistance. Vietnam’s colonizing “March South.”	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapters 4-5. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 94-97.
<b>SKILLS QUIZ, Monday 23 January</b>	<b>Ungraded, but <u>required</u> of all students</b>
<b>VIETNAM DURING THE HIGH IMPERIAL PERIOD</b>	
<b>30 January- 1 February:</b> The Tay Son Rebellion. The Founding of the Nguyen, Vietnam’s Final Dynasty. The Gia Long and Minh Mang Emperors.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapters 6-7. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 229-231.
<b>GRADED QUIZ 1, Monday 30 January</b>	
<b>6-8 February:</b> Vietnam’s Struggle with Western Powers. French Imperialist Expansion. The Black Flags.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapter 8. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 317-320.

<b>VIETNAMESE SOCIETY UNDER THE FRENCH</b>	
<b>13-15 February:</b> Colonial Vietnamese Society Under the French. Early Vietnamese Radicals.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapter 9. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 337-339.
<b>GRADED QUIZ 2, Monday 13 February</b>	
<b>20-22 February:</b> The leadership of the ICP and Ho Chi Minh. WWII in Vietnam.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapter 9. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 397-402.
<b>MIDTERM GRADE POSTED BY 2/24</b>	<b>PER UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENT</b>
<b>THE FRENCH CONFLICT IN VIETNAM</b>	
<b>27 February- 1 March:</b> The First Indochina War	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapter 9. <b>Film:</b> <i>First Vietnam War: 1946-54</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH</b>	<b>THINK PIECE PAPER #1 DUE ON CANVAS by 11:59PM.</b>

**SPRING BREAK:**

March 4, Saturday Instruction ends for Spring Break, 1:00 p.m.

March 13, Monday Classes resume after Spring Break, 8:00 a.m.

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
<b>13-15 March:</b> The RVN Government and the ARVN during Early US Involvement. The Early DRV Government.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i> , Chapter 10. 2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i> , pp. 476-486. <b>Film:</b> <i>America's Mandarin: 1954-1963</i>
<b>GRADED QUIZ 3, Monday 13 March</b>	
<b>20-22 March:</b> "Saigon, 1963": Role-playing exercise.	<b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest</i>



	<p><i>Times to the Present</i>, Chapter 10. Readings from Dutton's <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>.</p> <p>3. Additional Readings on Canvas</p>
<p><b>27-29 March:</b> Ha Noi's early strategy in the Second Indochina Conflict. Escalation in US Involvement.</p>	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <p>1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i>, Chapter 10.</p> <p>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 454-463.</p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>With America's Enemy: 1954-67</i></p>
<p><b>MONDAY, 27 MARCH</b></p>	<p><b>THINK PIECE PAPER #2: "SAIGON 1963" REPORT ON CANVAS AND IN CLASS BY CLASS TIME</b></p>
<p><b>3-5 April:</b> The 1968 Tet Offensive.</p>	<p><b>Required Reading:</b></p> <p>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>).</p> <p>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 463-473.</p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Tet: 1968</i></p>
<p><b>GRADED QUIZ 4, Monday 3 April</b></p>	
<p><b>10-12 April:</b> The End of US Involvement in the Second Indochina Conflict.</p>	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <p>1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i>, Chapter 11.</p> <p>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 486-489.</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL</b></p>	<p><b>THINK PIECE PAPER #3 DUE ON CANVAS BY 11: 59 PM</b></p>
<p><b>THE LEGACY OF WAR</b></p>	
<p><b>17-19 April:</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>	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <p>1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i>, Chapter 11.</p> <p>2. Dutton et. al, <i>Vietnamese Tradition</i>, pp. 554-564.</p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Journey from the Fall (scenes)</i></p>
<p><b>GRADED QUIZ 5, Monday 17 April</b></p>	

<p><b>24-26 April:</b> Vietnam in the Past Ten Years. Final remarks. Course review.</p>	<p><b>Required Readings:</b> 1. Kiernan, <i>Việt Nam: A History from Earliest Times to the Present</i>, Chapter 11.</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL</b></p>	<p><b>FINAL CLASS MEETING. FINAL EXAM QUESTION DISTRIBUTED ON CANVAS.</b></p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL</b></p>	<p><b>ALL MISSING ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE.</b></p>
<p><b>MONDAY, 1 MAY</b></p>	<p><b>FINAL EXAM DUE ON CANVAS BY 11: 59 PM</b></p>

