

Learning Community: War, Culture, and Memory Spring 2005: The Vietnam Era

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Learning Community: War, Culture and Memory

This Learning Community (LC) provides students with a thoroughly integrated learning experience that incorporates four academic courses that are usually taught separately. While there are different class listings for each of the four components English (ENG 102 or ENG 294), Religious Studies (REL 201), History (HST 204), and Political Science (POS 294), students in this LC will examine the Vietnam Era in a highly interdisciplinary fashion. Such an approach is fitting because human experience does not strictly follow the divisions among different academic areas of study. The important events and discourse of this period are best understood from a holistic perspective that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. In this LC, we will investigate theories of international relations, the rise of Communism and Anti-Communism, theories of nonviolent social change that underlie the civil rights movement and subsequent anti-war movement, and ethical and religious issues involved in violent and nonviolent struggles of the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and beyond.

In addition to integrating the four academic disciplines, the LC also combines several modes of learning that are reflected in the syllabus. For example, while some time is devoted to the traditional lecture format, a substantial portion of the Learning Community involves small group seminar discussions, blackboard journals, films, documentaries, guest lectures, and special student study groups. Students will note that the syllabus includes readings and assignments for all of the four components (History, Political Science, Religious Studies and English). It is important to keep in mind that this is a **twelve (12)**-credit course. Students will be receiving three (3) credits in each of the four courses mentioned above.

Finally, in addition to the substantive focus, this Learning Community has several other important goals. It provides students with a learning experience similar to that of a small liberal arts college. In addition to learning the content of the course, students improve their information literacy, their writing ability, and their skill in oral communication.

Books:

Appy, Christian G. Patriots: the Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides
Bates, Milton J. The Wars We Took to Vietnam: Cultural Conflict and Storytelling
Boyer, Paul. By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age.
Caputo, Philip. A Rumor of War
Carroll, James. An American Requiem
Carson, Clayborne. Et. al. A Call to Conscience : The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dalton, Dennis. Mahatma Gandhi: Nonviolent Power in Action
Hayslip, Le Ly. When Heaven and Earth Changed Places : a Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace
Jamieson, Neil L., Understanding Vietnam
Lunsford, Andrea and John Ruskiewicz, Everything's An Argument, 2nd ed.
Moody, Anne. Coming of Age in Mississippi
Moss, George Donelson. Vietnam, an American ordeal 4th ed.
Singer, Peter. Marx: A Very Short Introduction
Westheider, James E. Fighting on Two Fronts: African Americans and the Vietnam War

Two Required Coursepacks

Extra Credit:

Nhu Troung Tang, A Viet Cong Memoir

The two required coursepacks will be available at Alternative Copy Shop (Forest and University, behind the Chuckbox). In addition there may be some required class handouts and readings available on the internet.

Assignments:

Three Essays	300 points
Two Midterms	200 points
Quizzes	50 points
Final	150 points
Discussion Section	100 points
Blackboard participation	100 points
Portfolio (see description below)	100 points

Grade Scale:

Points	Grade
975-1000	A+
925-974	A
900-924	A-
875-899	B+
825-874	B
800-824	B-
760-799	C+
700-759	C
600-699	D
599 and Below	E

BLACKBOARD: This online course interface enables students and instructors to communicate electronically. Students will find helpful announcements, an online syllabus, research links, assignment information, and other Learning Community materials on the Blackboard site. In online discussion forums, students discuss content from lectures, readings, and writing assignments, synthesizing informed views through thoughtful responses. While instructors post occasional guiding comments and questions, students develop points and questions about the weekly content. Blackboard serves as an integral tool as students learn how to effectively use online media for communication and research.

PORTFOLIO: This personal folder of work that displays a student's progress. Students maintain and organize their portfolios throughout the semester. Portfolios are evaluated for responses that are thoughtful, articulate, and well-organized.

LIBRARY: As the heart of the university, the library provides access to impressive stores of information and interpretation. ASU Main libraries are divided by discipline: Architecture and Environmental Design, Science and Engineering are housed in Noble Library, Humanities and Social Sciences are found in Hayden Library, Law enjoys its own Ross-Blakeley Library, and Music harbors its own Music Library. Each of these libraries offers specialized collections and services. ASU Main and branch campus libraries contain more than 3.5 million volumes, provide access to thousands of specialized electronic databases and publications; together, they are currently ranked as the 34th largest research library in North America. In addition to the great wealth of knowledge and information available in various formats (including archival, print, microform, and electronic) from the University Libraries, Ed Oetting and other friendly librarians can facilitate your access to and understanding of information resources. Instructional sessions, general and specialized reference services, circulation and interlibrary loan services, off-campus electronic access, and Access for Disability Accommodations Services are some of the ways the libraries supports the ASU mission.

Weekly Schedule:

Monday

9:00-11:50 Lectures

12:40-2:30 Required BlackBoard participation online

Wednesday

9:40-11:30 am Lecture and English Lab

12:40-2:50 pm Films, Documentaries, Special Guests, and Lectures

Friday

10:00-11:30 am Small Group seminars

12:40-2:30 pm Special Study Groups and Seminars on an alternating basis. Other weeks will emphasize BlackBoard participation on Friday afternoon.

Classroom Behavior: Inappropriate behavior in class will prompt an immediate request to leave. Such a departure is counted as an absence. Such behavior includes talking during the lectures, reading the newspaper, sending email, sleeping, writing notes, carrying a noisy cell phone or pager, and other such actions. Professors and teaching assistants demand the same respect that employers demand. Cell phones and pagers do not belong in the classroom.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory in all portions of this course. Studies demonstrate that there is a direct correlation between attendance and performance. Students who accrue more

than five (5) unexcused absences, will have their final grades reduced by ten (10) points for EACH additional absence. Again, this policy applies to ALL portions of the course. In addition, students must arrive in class on time. Students who do not appear on time are counted absent.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Submitting unoriginal work is not acceptable. Plagiarism and cheating in any form result in the fullest disciplinary action that can be taken through appropriate university channels. Students who are uncertain about proper citation procedures should consult Dr. Miller or Ms. Yena.

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

The following schedule is loosely arranged according to themes and historical time periods. The readings and topics are subject to change as conditions dictate. Additional readings may be assigned. A list of required readings will be posted weekly on Blackboard. You are responsible for checking this weekly.

PLEASE NOTE that supplemental syllabi for ENG102 and ENG 294 will be provided. Students are responsible for all of the readings and assignments in both this syllabus and the ENG102 syllabus.

PLEASE NOTE that, while all course meetings will occur on MWF, some of the times will occasionally be adjusted and juggled, especially for afternoon sessions.

PLEASE NOTE: Faculty strongly encourage students to take other classes and/or develop job schedules on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and/or Sunday or at night rather than on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday during the day.

Week 1 January 17 (Martin Luther King Holiday no class on Monday) Vietnamese History Pre-1940

Wednesday January 19 9:40-11:30 AM Orientation and Lectures
12:40-2:50 PM BlackBoard Orientation/
Friday January 21 10:00-11:30 AM Discussion Groups
12:40-2:50 PM Movie: *Born on the 4th of July*
Readings: Jamieson, *Understanding Vietnam*, pp. 1-41
Moss, *Vietnam: An American Ordeal*, pp. 1-33
Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 1-15

Week 2 January 24-28: World War II and Southeast Asia Monday 9:00-11:50 AM Lecture

Wednesday 1:00-3:00 PM BlackBoard Discussion
9:40-11:30 AM English
12:40-2:50 PM Movie *IndoChine, Part I*
Friday 10:00-11:30 AM Discussion Groups
12:40-2:50 PM Movie *IndoChine, Part II*

Readings: Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light*, pp. 1-26
Singer, *Marx*, pp. To Be Announced (TBA)
Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 16-41

Week 3 January 31-February 4: First IndoChina War and the Origins of the Cold War
1940-1945

Readings: Jamieson, *Understanding Vietnam*, pp. 42-175
Moss, *Vietnam: An American Ordeal*, pp. 34-117
Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 42-79
Singer, *Marx*, pp. TBA

Movie: *The Ugly American*

Week 4 February 7-11: Cold War 1945-1954

Readings: Jamieson, *Understanding Vietnam*, pp. 176-233
Moss, *Vietnam: An American Ordeal*, pp. 118-155
Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light*, pp. 27-178
Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 80-123
Dalton, *Mahatma Gandhi*, pp. TBA

Movie: *Failsafe*

Week 5: February 14-18: 1954-1963

Readings: Jamieson, *Understanding Vietnam*, pp. 234-306
Moss, *Vietnam: An American Ordeal*, pp. 156-204
Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 124-158
Dalton, *Gandhi*, pp. TBA

Movie : *Gandhi*

***FIRST EXAM END OF WEEK 5**

Week 6 February 21-25: 1954-1963

Readings: Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi, Parts I and II*
Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," "I Have a Dream"
in Carson, ed., *A Call to Conscience*

Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 159-186
Religious Studies Coursepack: Selections from Harvey, *Religious Culture and the Shaping of the South*, pp. TBA

Movie: Video of "I Have a Dream" and Birmingham protests

Week 7 February 28-March 4: 1963-1965

Readings: Religious Studies Coursepack: Selections from Charles Marsh, *The Beloved Community*

Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi, Parts III and IV*
Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 187-223

Movie: *The Right Stuff* (Space Flight)

Week 8: March 7-11: 1965-1968

Readings: Waltz, *Man, State, and War*, pp. 224-238.
Religious Studies Coursepack: Selections from Thich Nhat Hanh, *Fragrant Palm Leaves: Journals 1962-66*, pp. TBA
Jamieson, *Understanding Vietnam*, pp. 307-356
Moss, *Vietnam: An American Ordeal*, pp. 205-332
Appy, ed. *Patriots*, pp. 101-149
Westheider, *Fighting on Two Fronts*, pp. 1-65
Martin Luther King, Jr., "Beyond Vietnam" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" in Carson, ed., *A Call to Conscience*

Movie: Amazing Grace: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his Own Words.

Week 9: March 14-18 SPRING BREAK -- SURFING AT MAZATLAN

Week 10 March 21-25: 1969-1973

Readings:

Le Ly Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, pp. ix-164
Jamieson, *Understanding Vietnam*, pp. 357-376
Moss, *Vietnam: An American Ordeal*, pp. 205-332
Westheider, *Fighting on Two Fronts*, pp. 66-176
Political Science Coursepack

Movie: The Fog of War

Week 11 March 28-April 1: 1973-1975

Readings:

Le Ly Hayslip, When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, pp. 165-373
Moss, Vietnam: An American Ordeal, pp. 333-457
James Carroll, American Requiem, pp. 1-123
Appy, ed., Patriots, pp. 328-342
Political Science Coursepack

Guest Speaker: Robert Brigham, Professor at Vassar College and friend of Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense in the early 1960s

Week 12 April 4-8

Readings:

Le Ly Hayslip, When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, pp. TBA
James Carroll, American Requiem, pp. 124-279
Appy, ed., Patriots, pp. 377-389
Political Science Coursepack

Guest Speaker: Roy Elson, Administrative Assistant to Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona (and President Pro Tem of the U.S. Senate) during the 1960s

***SECOND EXAM END OF WEEK 12**

Week 13 April 11-15

Readings:

from Gene McCahharer, Christian Critics, Hayden on-line reserve
Appy, Patriots, pp. 343-353
Caputo, Rumor of War, pp. 1-150
Political Science Coursepack

Guest Speaker: Mary Melcher, Director of Arizona Historical Museum, "Arizona during the Vietnam Era"

Week 14 April 18-22

Readings:

Appy, ed., Patriots, pp. 393-511
Caputo, Rumor of War, pp. 151-208
Political Science Coursepack

Movie: TBA

Week 15 April 25-29

Readings:

Appy, Patriots, pp. 515-550

Caputo, Rumor of War, pp. 209-356

Political Science Coursepack

Movie: TBA

Week 16 May 2nd: Last day of class -- REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

PORTFOLIO: A portfolio is a personal folder of work that will show your individual progress. You are responsible for keeping and organizing your portfolio throughout the semester. Your portfolio will begin with a statement of your goals for the semester and will conclude with a reflection on how well you have met those goals. In addition, your portfolio should have three sections: 1) essays (including drafts from Wednesday ENG 102 class), 2) exams, and 3) discussion section and Blackboard participation. For each section, you will submit dated statements of your goals, methods to reach those goals, and reflections on how well you have met those goals. Your portfolio will be evaluated for its organization, completeness, and statements of goals, methods, and reflections. We will provide you with more detailed instructions and suggestions for the portfolio as the semester progresses.