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Office Hours:  
WED: 5:30 – 6:30PM (WEST CAMPUS—by appointment)

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

THE VIETNAM WAR [Course Number, HIS 219 (3 credits)]

This course is a history of the American experience in Vietnam. It is divided into two parts: the origins of American involvement (1946-1963) and the Vietnam War and its consequences, 1963-1975.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

• The student will be able to describe the final stages of the French colonial period in Vietnam and how the United States became involved in the French efforts to maintain their colonial empire in Vietnam (1945-54).
• The student will demonstrate an understanding of how the political environment during the post World War II era influenced U. S. decision making regarding Southeast Asia.
• The student will be able to describe the contributions of the following presidents toward American involvement in the Vietnam War: Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon (1945-1975).
• The student will be able to describe the following terms and how they relate to the American experience in Vietnam: Viet Minh, Viet Cong, PLF, NVA, ARVN, MACV, Strategic Hamlet Program, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, the Paris Peace talks, Vietnamization, search and destroy, the Phoenix program, the My Lai Massacre, the Tet Offensive, Rolling Thunder, military advisory role, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and the MIA/POW controversy.
• The student will be able to describe the strategies employed by the North Vietnamese political and military leadership and how it was able to overcome the superior technology and military might of the United States.
• The student will be able to demonstrate a knowledge of the impact of the protest movement in the United States. (1) What were its roots? (2) How widespread was this movement? (3) How it caused a major re-thinking of America’s role in Vietnam.
• The student will demonstrate basic knowledge of the roles played by the following military and political leaders who had important roles during the Vietnam War: Ngo D. Diem, John F. Dulles, Gen. William Westmoreland, Henry C. Lodge, Robert McNamara, Le Duc Tho, Vo Nguyen Giap, Ho Chi Minh, Pham Van Dong, Henry Kissinger, “The Wise Men”, Nguyen Cao Ky, Clark Clifford, Nguyen Van Thieu, Edward Lansdale and John Paul Vann (among others).
• The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the technological innovations, and tactics employed by the United States and the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War.
• The student will be able to demonstrate a knowledge of the following critical battles and how they affected the course of the Vietnam War: Khe Sanh, Ia Drang, the Cambodian incursion, the Tet Offensive, Hue, Dien Bien Phu, the bombing of North Vietnam, the Battle for the Central Highlands, the Lester Maddox and C. Turner Joy incidents, My Lai, Ap Bac, and Hamburger Hill.
• The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the following geographic terms relating to the Vietnam War: Hanoi, Haiphong, Saigon, I, II, III and IV Corps, Mekong River, Mekong Delta, Central Highlands, Laos, Cambodia, South China Sea, Hue, the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex, Danang, and the 17th Parallel (DMZ).
• The student will be able to relate how the protest movement in the United States developed and the role of the mass media, journalism, political dissent, The Pentagon Papers, and social protests contributed to antiwar sentiments in the United States (1965-1975).

• The Student will be able to describe the role of women during the Vietnam War both from the American and Vietnamese perspectives.

• The student will be able to describe the significance of Laos and Cambodia as it related to the war in Vietnam.

• The student will be able to describe how the aftermath of the Vietnam War changed both Vietnamese society and American society. The student will be able to relate how America’s failed policies in Vietnam impacted on the following: the military, race relations, social programs in the United States, immigration, trust in government and the presidency, and America’s role in international relations.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY and OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

✶ Classroom activities will include: lectures, video presentations, classroom discussions, student presentations, and written examinations.

✶ Students are expected to participate actively during classes. This can influence your final grade. For example: if a student has participated actively during the class throughout the semester their grade for the course may be affected. If a student who has been active in class discussions has an average of between 87-89 for all their tests, etc. he/she will receive an “A-” for the course.

✶ Students are expected to be prepared for class discussion by keeping up with the reading assignments (see Class Schedule—attached).

✶ Please be on time for class. Recurrent lateness is not permitted as it disrupts the class and the flow of discussion. Thank you for your cooperation.

✶ Video presentations are given throughout the semester. While the student is not expected to take down pages of notes while the video is playing, key issues and salient parts of the video are to be discussed. The instructor will indicate these important parts by writing them on the blackboard prior to the video presentation. Additionally, when an issue is presented during the video that the student wishes to be clarified or expanded upon, the student is encouraged to jot it down during the video for later discussion.

✶ In case of inclement weather please tune in to your radio for announcements of school closing. The MONTCO (Main Campus) number is 320 (2320 for night classes); the West Campus (in Pottstown) number is: 395 (2395 for night classes). Call (215) 641-6300 to obtain school closing information (Central Campus). Other information about classes at the West Campus (Pottstown) can be obtained by contacting (610)-718-1800).

Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Please contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Counseling Center, College Hall, at (215) 641-6577 for more information. At the West Campus contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at: (610) 718-1853

Veterans: Student veterans may be eligible for benefits and services related to military service. At Central Campus, contact the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisor in College Hall 122 or at 215-641-6581 to learn about education benefits and healthcare entitlements. At the West Campus, contact Michael Ondo in South Hall 151 or at 610-718-1857 for the veterans resources.  http://www.mc3.edu/sa/vet/vet.htm
Method of Evaluation:

- There will be three (3) examinations each worth (25%) of the course grade. A map quiz worth 5% and there is a research paper requirement (see course schedule) worth 20% of the course grade.

Criteria for evaluation: 100 – 93 = A; 92 – 90 = A-; 89 – 87 = B+; 86-83 = B; 82 - 80 = B-; 79 – 77 = C+; 76 - 73 = C; 72 - 70 = C-; 69 – 60 = D; 59 and below = F

- The following link will take you to the college web site regarding grading policy and weighting for GPA: www.mc3.edupolicy/aa/3.6.htm

- Attendance is mandatory and grades will be reduced if absences in excess of the maximum are incurred. For classes that meet one (1) time per week, more than 2 absences.
For each absence in excess of the limit, a reduction of (1/2) of the final letter grade will imposed. For example, if a student misses 4 classes of a section meeting once a week and received an earned grade of “B”—he/she would receive a transcript grade of “C+”.

**FINAL DATE FOR A SIGNED WITHDRAWAL IS: MARCH 25th, 2009**

Lateness and Make-up Examinations:

- Students are encouraged to be on time. Repetitive lateness will be counted as an absence(s).

- Make-up examinations are given only through prior arrangements with the instructor or when a note from a physician is presented and the makeup examination is taken within one (1) week. The makeup examination is different than the examination that was given during the regularly scheduled examination time. If none of the above conditions are met, the grade will be an “O” for that examination.

**Academic Student Code of Ethics**: “In pursuit of knowledge and scholarship, all members of the academic community at MCCC must maintain a constant commitment to academic integrity. The College provides an environment that fosters critical thinking and judgment, and in order to safeguard the integrity of the institution, students are expected to follow the policies of the College and the faculty. To fulfill their part of that commitment, students must adhere to an academic code of ethics by refraining from participation in acts of academic dishonesty. By attending MCCC, students accept this Student Academic Code of Ethics and agree to the following:

- Students must do all their own work.
- Students must not cheat.
- Students must not help others to cheat.

Students who are unclear about the validity of an academic procedure they are about to undertake should ask their instructor for guidance beforehand. Violations of this code of ethics will result in sanctions, including possible dismissal from the College.”

- Students are encouraged to read the Student Handbook for information regarding cheating, classroom behaviors and plagiarism. Policies indicated in the Student Handbook/Calendar and the College Booklet will be followed regarding these issues. You can find the student code of ethics at the following web address: http://www.mc3.edu/gen/polpro/st_acad_code_of_ethics.html

➤ You may obtain many of the handouts for this course by going to the following web address: http://faculty.mc3.edu/jhodges/jhodges.htm (My faculty home page). Click on the flashing icon that says “COURSE HANDOUTS” navigate to the course you want and click on the handout(s) you wish to print or download. Be sure to read the instructions on the Handout page.
### CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 21</td>
<td>Introduction to the course, review of the syllabus and course requirements. A brief history of Vietnam. The final days of French colonialism. <strong>The French Indochinese war.</strong></td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 1, 2 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 4</td>
<td><strong>The Geneva Accords and the partition of Vietnam.</strong> The United States becomes involved. Nation building and Ngo Dinh Diem. From Viet Minh to Viet Cong: an examination of guerilla warfare. Strategic Hamlets, insurgency, the failure of the Diem regime. (Review)</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 3, 4 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 11</td>
<td>United States becomes involved. Nation building and Ngo Dinh Diem. From Viet Minh to Viet Cong: an examination of guerilla warfare. Strategic Hamlets, insurgency, the failure of the Diem regime. (Review)</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 3, 4 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 18TH</td>
<td><strong>EXAMINATION #1</strong> Moss Chapters 1-4 (handouts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 25</td>
<td><strong>America goes to war.</strong> The Tonkin Gulf Resolution.</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 5, 6 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 4</td>
<td><strong>War at the grass roots:</strong> the role of the military advisor. Failed solutions: the bombing campaign, search and destroy. and South Vietnamese crises of leadership.</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 5, 6 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 11</td>
<td><strong>Technology versus patriotism:</strong> an examination of the leadership and fighting techniques of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong guerilla. US military technology used during the war. (Review)</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTER 7 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 25</td>
<td><strong>Technology versus patriotism:</strong> an examination of the leadership and fighting techniques of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong guerilla. US military technology used during the war. (Review)</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTER 7 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 1ST</td>
<td><strong>EXAMINATION #2</strong> All rdngs + hndts (FROM: FEB 25TH )</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 8</td>
<td><strong>LBJ’s War.</strong> US military operations. The air war.</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 7, 8 APPY (READINGS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 15</td>
<td>The Tet Offensive and the war protest movement. The televised war: social &amp; political disillusionment at home. The failure of pacification.</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTERS 7, 8 APPY (READINGS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 22ND</td>
<td>Presentation of papers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 29</td>
<td><strong>President Nixon’s War.</strong> Vietnamization, the Cambodian incursion, communist victory, the fall of Saigon, and aftermath of the war. How the war impacted American society. The Vietnam veteran and re-acclimation to society. The role of women in the Vietnam war. (Review)</td>
<td>MOSS: CHAPTER 9 APPY (READINGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 13TH</td>
<td><strong>EXAMINATION #3 (FINAL)</strong> All rdngs + hndts (FROM: APR 8TH )</td>
<td></td>
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*Readings in Appy, PATRIOTS: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides*

There are no specific dates for these readings. You should read the pages indicated relating to the subjects/topics/names being discussed in class at the time. For example: during the first week or two of the course the readings under the heading The French Indochina War should be read, then the Diem Regime and so forth.

**The French Indochina War & Geneva Accords:** pp. 41-43; 44-50; 50-54; 341-342

**The Diem Regime:** pp. 54-59; 72-75

**Advisors:** pp. 12-15; 60-64

**US Escalation:** pp. 3-8; 9-11; 101-103

**VC/NVA Experiences:** pp. 15-19; 20-21; 103-106; 186-187; 190-194; 212-215

**ARVN Experiences:** pp. 25-27

**Ia Drang Battle:** pp. 128-135

**US Leadership:** pp. 84-86; 112-114; 115-117; 118-121; 121-123; 124-127; 445-460; 539-540

**USO, Army Morale, etc:** pp. 28-30; 177-183; 184-186; 188-190

**Medical:** pp. 138-141; 162-164; 167-170; 170-175; 175-176

**Media/War Correspondence:** pp. 238-250; 253-256; 259-261; 371-374; 374-376

**Special Operations:** pp. 90-94; 94-98

**The Protest Movement:** pp. 142-145; 150-155; 164-167; 195-199; 231-237; 262-278; 313-319 (1968 election); 384-389 (Kent State); 417-422; 425-429; 432-436

**Air Warfare:** pp. 200-209; 209-213

**POWs:** pp. 221-228 (US); 228-231 (VC/NVA); 470-475 (US); 480-492

**TET Offensive:** pp. 285-303

**My Lai Massacre:** 343-353

**Cambodian Incursion:** 377-384

**Division in the US:** pp. 328-330; 332-340

**US Pullout:** pp. 393-412; 461-469 (Paris Peace Talks); 496-504

**Aftermath:** pp. 515-519; 536-539; 542-546
• **GRADING POLICIES**

- There are **THREE (3) examinations**. Each are weighted equally (25%)
- There will be a map quiz given with the final (3rd) examination worth (5%)
- There is one INTERNET research paper. It is due **APRIL 22ND**. This paper is worth 20% of your grade. **PAPERS SUBMITTED AFTER THE APRIL 22ND DUE DATE WILL BE REDUCED 1 LETTER GRADE FOR EACH DAY PAST THE DUE DATE.**
- Attendance is required. Absences in excess of TWO (2) will result in a lowered grade. For every absence above TWO (2) your grade will be lowered by one (1/2) letter grade. For example for 6 absences a “C” will be turned into an “F”.
- Class participation counts. For example: if a student has a test average of between “87-89” and has participated in class discussions and has less than two (2) absences they will receive an “A-“ for a final grade.

• **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

- **ATTENDANCE:** no excused absences. More than **TWO (2) absences** will result in a lowered grade. (see grading policies above).
- **LATENESS:** students are required to be on time. Persistent lateness will be regarded as being absent. Permission to leave early will be at the discretion of the instructor.
- **WITHDRAWALS:** students may withdraw up until the 8th week (MARCH 25TH) of the semester. After that it is up to the instructor to allow a course withdrawal with a grade of “W”.
- **MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Unless you have made prior arrangements, make-up examinations will be at the discretion of the instructor. Make-up exams require a physician’s note for missing the regularly scheduled examination and are essay examinations.

**RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

➤ **SEE HANDOUT FOR WEB SITE PAPER REQUIREMENTS**