The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how the developing and hardening cold war attitudes in the postwar period impacted globally. Taking the example of Vietnam, this course tries to show how an initial war for independence, an anticolonial war waged by the Vietnamese against the French, was subsequently deemed by the Americans to be an attempt by Communist minorities to subjugate all of Vietnam and thus an unacceptable breach of the American notion of an anti-Communist perimeter in southeast Asia. Employing a highly moral rhetoric with which to garner support, American decision makers sought to cast the growing U.S. involvement in Vietnam in almost religious terms -- as Armageddon -- undertaken on behalf of the free world.

By looking at specific events and decisions rendered the study of the Vietnam conflict affords one an in-depth look at cold war policies and practices in a microcosm. In the end, neither party to the conflict could continue to sustain it ad infinitum, making way for truce agreements to be reached in time. These agreements, however, did not prevent the Vietnam domino from falling after all.

No claim to completeness is being made and rather than proceeding strictly in a chronological fashion, the focus will be on selected major issues surrounding the conflict. Students are therefore encouraged to consult additional sources of information, like those suggested in the bibliography appended below.

Students who successfully complete this course, ought to have 1) developed enhanced skills for formal written / oral communication; 2) improved their critical reading skills; 3) improved their skills for critical and analytical thought; 4) honed their understanding of key concepts and terms specific to the course content; and 5) improved skills to prepare a term paper at university transfer level, demonstrating an appropriate mastery of research skills and grammar.

**TEXTBOOK:** Mark A. Lawrence. *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History*. EBRARY

**HANDBOOK:** *Vietnam Companion: Maps and Documents*.

**Examinations & Due Dates:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Examination</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>June 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Second Examination</td>
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<td>Document Analysis</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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All assignments **MUST** be completed and submitted in class on the date specified. There will be no make-up examinations and late papers will be penalized 10% per day, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Exceptions MAY be granted only to those who can satisfactorily explain their absence from Campus on the date of the assignment.

**HELP IS AVAILABLE**, but **YOU** will have to communicate any difficulties you may encounter to me. Office hours will be held Mondays through Fridays, except on non-teaching days. See schedule posted on my office door.
COURSE OUTLINE:

INTRODUCTION:

BIRTH OF FRENCH INDOCHINA – FRENCH COLONIAL POLICIES – WORLD WAR I - HO CHI MINH IN PARIS – DEVELOPMENT OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALISM. Lawrence, chap. 1

WORLD WAR II AND FRENCH INDOCHINA:


HO CHI MINH AND THE FRENCH, 1945-1954:


GENEVA, 1954:

MENDES FRANCE AND THE INDOCHINESE WAR - EDC FOR PEACE – THE ACCORD – THE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON – FINAL DECLARATION. Lawrence, chap. 2,3

FROM THE ASHES OF GENEVA: VIETNAM NORTH, VIETNAM SOUTH:


INTO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN QUAGMIRE:

LAOS AND ITS REGIONAL POLICIES – AMERICAN RESPONSES – KENNEDY’S COMMITMENT – THE COUP. Lawrence, chap. 4
JOHNSON'S WAR:


Lawrence, chap. 5-6

NIXON’S WAR:


Lawrence, chap. 7

THE BEGINNING OF THE END:


Lawrence, chap. 8

VIETNAM: THE WAR AT HOME:


Lawrence, chap. 8
Term Papers:

Choose one of the topics below to write on. Essays should be legible and double spaced. They **MUST** contain a title page, footnotes to your sources of information as well as a bibliography. For proper footnoting and other technical aspects of essay writing consult the Langara Style Sheet.

Your paper **MUST** contain a bibliography of at least six sources (apart from course textbook) that you have used in its preparation. **Remember:** a term paper requires a critical analysis of your subject, a reading and weighing of points of view advanced by experts in your chosen subject area. A laundry list of facts and generalizations, or a mere recitation of events **DOES NOT** meet the requirement of critical analysis.

Late papers **will be penalized 10% per day, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.**

Topics:

1. The French in Vietnam: Mission civilisatrice
2. The August 1945 Revolution.
7. TET 1968.
8. Pentagon Papers
9. Olaf Palme and the War.
10. Laos and Cambodia: Collateral Damage?
11. The Media and the Conflict.
12. The War at Home.
VIETNAM: FROM COLONIAL WAR TO COLD WAR, 1946-1975:

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“IN THE LANDS OF THE BLIND: EISENHOWER’S COMMITMENT TO SOUTH VIETNAM, 1954,”  
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[VPL: 959.7 R19G]

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