UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
THE VIETNAM WAR
INR 4225
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2012
Dr. Bruce Farcau

I. Textbook (Required):

Davidson, Phillip B., *Vietnam at War*, Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1988.
Karnow, Stanley, *Vietnam*, New York: The Viking Press, 1983.

(Recommended)

McMaster, H. R., *Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam.* New York: Harper Perennial, 1997.
Moyar, Mark, *Triumph Forsaken: The Vietnam War 1954-1965*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006
Sorley, Lewis, *A Better War: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam*. New York: Harcourt, Inc., 1999.
-----. *Westmoreland.* Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 2011.
Summers, Harry G., *On Strategy: A Critical Analysis of the Vietnam War.* New York: Random House, 1995.

Additional Reading (Optional):

Asprey, Robert B., *War in the Shadows*, New York: William Morrow & Co., 1994.
Goldstein, Gordon, *Lessons in Disaster: McGeorge Bundy and the Path to War in Vietnam.* New York: Holt, 2008.
Halberstam, David, *The Best and the Brightest*, New York: Fawcett-Crest, 1972.
Hamilton-Merritt, Jane, *Tragic Mountains: The Hmong, the Americans, and the Secret Wars in Laos, 1942-1992.*
Herring, George C., *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam 1950-1975*, 4th ed., New York: Knopf, 2002.
Kissinger, Henry, *White House Years*, New York: Little, Brown & Co., 1979.
-----, *Years of Upheaval*, New York: Little, Brown & Co., 1982.
-----, *Years of Renewal*, New York: Little, Brown & Co. 1999.
Lind, Michael, *Vietnam: The Necessary War*, New York: The Free Press, 1999.
McMaster, H. R., *Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam.* New York: Harper Perennial, 1997.
Nagl, John A., *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgence Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002
Nixon, Richard, *No More Vietnams*
Palmer, Dave Richard, *Summons of the Trumpet: U.S.-Vietnam in Perspective*, Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1978.

Phillips, Rufus, *Why Vietnam Matters.*
Podhoretz, Norman, *Why We Were in Vietnam*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1982.
Shapely, Deborah, *Promise and Power: The Life and Times of Robert McNamara*
Sheehan, Neil, *A Bright Shining Lie,* New York: Random House, 1988.
U.S. Department of Defense, *The Pentagon Papers*, vols. 1-4, Boston: Beacon Press, 1971.

II. Course Description

INR 4225
The Vietnam War
Background of events leading to America's involvement in Indochina, the course of the Vietnam War, and the lessons which that war imparts.

The instructor will be available for questions before or after class or during office hours MWF 0730 to 0820 hours in Phillips Hall 306 or by appointment. He may also be contacted via e-mail at bfarcau@msn.com. Please note that no papers can be accepted by email.

III. Test and Grading Policy

A. There will be three (3) exams, none of which will be comprehensive. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. Each exam will consist of a number of short answer or essay questions, and the student will have a choice of which questions to answer (i.e., answer three out of five offered.) Tests will be based on the text and explanations of that material provided in lecture. A take-home version of the first two tests will be available for those missing the in-class version and **must** be turned in within one week of the original test. A take-home version for the final test will also be made available on the last day of classes, but no make-up will be offered. Those opting for the take-home test **must** turn it in by the time of the in-class test, either directly to the instructor or at the Poli Sci Department, Phillips Hall 302, during business hours.

B. A term paper of a minimum of 8 pages of text (typed, double-spaced, with standard margins and 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, with each page numbered) plus bibliography, besides any graphics, sources, or footnotes. The paper will be related to some specific aspect of the Vietnam War, and the topic **should be agreed upon with the instructor not later than 24 February**. The paper should draw on *at least* six sources, but not including the course texts or general encyclopedias. As a rule of thumb, a source that does not include an author's name is not acceptable, and sourcing consisting solely of journal articles will also be considered inadequate. Direct quotes should be kept to a minimum. The paper will be worth 25% of your grade. The term paper will be due on or before April 6th. Late papers will be accepted by April 13th, but will suffer a 10-point penalty. Papers will be accepted up April 20th, but will suffer a 25-point penalty. **Papers will not be accepted after that date.**

C. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 10 extra credit points to be added to any test grade by writing a 4-page, typed report on any of the books on the additional reading list provided. Students are welcome to offer additional titles of related books for approval as well. This will be due by April 20th. No papers will be accepted after that date.

D. Each test (modified for extra credit) and the term paper are all worth the same weight toward the final grade. The percentage grade on each test will be averaged to result in the final grade. The grade scale will be:

59 below = F
60-69 = D
70-79 = C
80-89 = B
90 above = A

SCHEDULE
(Subject to Change – Note that specific dates for tests are not given)

CLASS DATE (week of)	TOPIC	READINGS
January 9	Introduction and Background to the Cold War and the End of Colonialism	N/A
January 16	Indochina through WWII	Karnow, Ch 2-3 Davidson, Ch 1
January 23	The French War	Karnow, Ch 4 Davidson, Ch 2-6
January 30	The French Defeat	Karnow, Ch 5 Davidson, Ch 7-11
	FIRST TEST	
February 6	The Interim Regime	Karnow, Ch 6 Davidson, Ch 12 Moyar, 1-3
February 13	America Intervenes, Eisenhower and Kennedy	Karnow, Ch 7-8 Moyar, 4-11
February 20	Johnson and Escalation	Karnow, 9-12 Davidson, Ch 13-17 Moyar, 12-17
February 27	Tet, the Turning Point	Davidson, Ch 18 Karnow, Ch 13-14 Sorley, 1
March 5	SPRING BREAK	

March 12	Domestic Politics and Vietnam	Davidson, 19 Sorley, 2
	SECOND TEST	
March 19	Nixon's War through Cambodia	Karnow, Ch 15 Davidson, Ch 20-22 Sorley, 3-12
March 26	Vietnamization	Karnow, 15 Davidson, Ch 23 Sorley, 13-15
April 2 (term papers due)	Pacification,	Davidson, Ch 24 Sorley, 16-20
April 9	Peace Talks and Collapse	Davidson, Ch 25 Karnow, Ch 16 Sorley, 21-22
April 16	Fall of Saigon and Cambodia	Davidson, Ch 26 Sorley, 23
April 23	Lessons of the War	Davidson, Ch 27 Summers, all

THIRD TEST (FINALS WEEK – Check ucf.edu schedule)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Students are expected to attend every class, barring illness or true emergency. It is unlikely that a good grade can be earned without regular attendance in class. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain lecture notes from another student in case of need.

B. Punctuality: Classes will start promptly as scheduled. If arriving late, please enter as discreetly as possible. Do not leave until class is dismissed.

C. Courtesy: Beepers and cell phones should be turned off during class. There should be no eating or drinking during class. Any questions should be directed to the instructor, and the only other talking should be in response to questions from the instructor or at his direction.

D. Cheating: All written work should be your own. Plagiarizing on term papers or otherwise cheating on tests will result in an automatic F grade for the entire course.

----------TEAR LINE----------

I, _____ have read and understood the syllabus for this
Name and PID
course. I understand my responsibilities as a student and the penalties involved in failing to comply with course requirements.

INR 4063
The Cold War

_____ _____
Signature **Date**