INR 4225
THE VIETNAM WAR

Dr. Robert Bledsoe
10:30-11:20 MWF
BA 207

OFFICE: Phillips Hall 302
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00-10:00MWF;
12:00-3:00MWF

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Purpose of Course: This course is designed to familiarize the student with the background of events leading to America's involvement in Indochina, the course of the Vietnam War, and the legacy of that war upon both the United States and the international system. It is the assumption of the instructor that a generation of students is now in college that has little knowledge of the conflict, its impact upon American society, or its implications upon present and future American foreign policy. Hopefully, this course will be a partial remedy if that assumption is correct.

2. Course Requirements: The course will consist of a series of lectures, videotapes, and textbook readings. You are encouraged to ask questions, inject personal observations, and challenge the assertions of the professor. Attend all class meetings. While no record of attendance is kept, you will find that failure to do so will soon be reflected in your course performance, for materials covered in class will often not be found in your textbooks for the course. **Read** and **master** the assignments that follow in Section 5. These are found in your textbook for the course:

Stanley Karnow, *Vietnam: A History*. Penguin Books. 1991.

3. Examinations: There will be three (3) midterm exams. Each exam will cover that portion of the material outlined below. Exams are **tentatively** scheduled as follows and will be held in the normally assigned classroom:

(1) **Friday, January 31**
(2) **Wednesday, February 26**
(3) **Monday, March 31**

Final examination (which is not cumulative) will be **Monday**, **April 28** from **10:00-12:50**.

All exams will consist of ten short answer questions asking you to identify, define, explain, contrast, list, etc. the major concepts, principles, points, arguments, events, etc. covered during the course. **Attendance at exams is mandatory. Also note: After the first person has turned in their exam and left the room, no one who**

is tardy and arrives after that time will be allowed to take the exam - they will have missed the test. Please provide me with four (4) examination booklets ("blue books") prior to the first midterm. You will write your exams in them. They can be purchased at the Book Store.

4. Grades: Evaluation of your performance will be based upon the following:

examinations	4 x 33.3% = 133%

You must have **three (3)** grades to successfully complete the course. This means that you can take four exams and take the highest three grades (dropping the lowest one); or do any three exams, skipping an exam (including the final). **Be careful how you decide upon your course of action as there are no make-up exams**. If you miss a test, you have dropped your lowest grade already. Make your Summer vacation plans, wedding plans, return home, etc. for after the last exam. There will be no early final exam. In no case is it wise to miss the first examination.

Grades are based as follows:

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	<60

Grades are not curved nor do I assign + or - to letter grades.

6. Assignments: Chptr #s in Karnow
(plus lectures and videotapes)

Part I.

Introduction: Preface (maps; chronology)
- Why Study the Vietnam War?

Historical Context: Chptrs. 2-3
- Pre-French “Vietnam”
- Vietnam under French Colonialism
- Vietnam under the Japanese in WWII
- “Independence”

First Indochina War: Chptrs. 4-5
- The Vietminh
- The French Forces
- Fighting Methods
- Logistics

Red River Delta
Operation Lorraine
Operation Castor
Dien Bien Phu
Geneva Agreements

----First midterm exam (**Friday, January 31)**----

Part II.

Post-Geneva Vietnam: Chptrs. 6-9
South Vietnam under Diem
Viet Cong and North Vietnamese
Ho Chi Minh Trail
Kennedy and Johnson: U.S. Domestic Politics and Decision-Making

----Second Midterm exam (**Wednesday, February 26**)---

Part III.

Second Indochina War(cont.): Chptrs. 10-14
Gulf of Tonkin Incident
The Americanization of the War
Strategy and Tactics
Weapons
Bombing
Khe Sahn
Tet Offensive
Legal/Moral Debate
The Media, Education and the Protest Movement

----Third Midterm exam (**Monday, March 31**) ---

Part IV.

Vietnamization: Chptrs. 15-16
The Secret Wars
Laos
Cambodia
The Paris Talks
The Road to Collapse
Easter Invasion
Final Offensive
Entrance into Saigon
Aftermath

Present Day Vietnam: Chptr. 1
Five-Year Plans
Economic Reforms
Normalization of Relations

Foreign Policy Challenges

Legacies and Lessons of the War (factor analysis; assigned readings)
US Domestic Politics
US Foreign Policy
US Invasion of Iraq: Vietnam – Part II?

----Final exam (**Monday, April 28**)----

WELCOME TO THE VIETNAM WAR
AND MAY YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SPRING TERM

Some ground rules:

(1) Classroom

- No food or drinks (except water)
- No smoking
- No electronic devices
- You may use a recorder or laptop
- If you are late, please come anyway but try not to be disruptive when entering the room

(2) Communications

- Feel free to email me:
  office – robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu
  home - drbled@aol.com
- Call me at the office (823-2608) but not at home
- See me during office hours or any other time during the day (but best to make an appointment in advance, as my calendar gets pretty full)

(3) Exams

- Once the exam has been handed out, you may not leave the classroom until you have finished you exam
- If you are late on exam day and a student has already turned in their exam and departed before you arrive, you are too late and I will not let you take the exam
- Final grades are only posted on myUCF and will not be given out over the telephone, by e-mail, or by the Department staff. I will let you know your final exam grade, course average, and/or return materials you have not picked up if you provide me ahead of time with a stamped, addressed envelop or mailer.

Attachments: Factor Analysis
Maps
Chronology of Events