

HST195 - History of the Vietnam War

Course Syllabus - Fall Term 2014

PLEASE NOTE	The course syllabus is a contract between instructor and student. It is the student's responsibility to read, understand, and comply with every academic requirement listed herein. Contact the instructor directly if you have any questions regarding the information in this syllabus or the course in general.
Class Orientation	There is NO face-to-face orientation for this course. Students will listen to an audio orientation online. Login to http://classes.lanecc.edu to access all class materials.
Instructor/ Email Office/Phone Office Hours	Joe Escobar - escobarj@lanecc.edu (Enrolled students should use Moodle messaging, rather than email, to contact the instructor) Office - Center Building, 4th Floor, 419J (541) 463-5581 Office Hours - by appointment (Moodle message me to suggest a day and time to meet)
Required Texts and Videos	America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975 (5th Edition) by George C Herring Format: Paperback: 384 pages Publisher: McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 5 edition (September 4, 2013) ISBN-10: 978-0073513256 4th Edition = ISBN-13: 978-0072536188 (can also be used) Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides by Christian G. Appy Format: Paperback, 574pp Publisher: Penguin Group (2004) ISBN: 0142004499 ISBN-13: 9780142004494 DVD set - Vietnam: A Television History Format: Box set, Closed-captioned, Color, DVD, Full Screen, NTSC Number of discs: 4 Studio: WGBH BOSTON DVD Release Date: July 27, 2004 Run Time: 660 minutes ASIN: B0001WTWOC The LCC Bookstore DOES NOT STOCK the DVD set. There are 30 DVD sets and 20 VHS sets that may be checked out from the LCC Library by students enrolled in this class on a first-come, first-served basis. You may also watch the videos in the LCC library. Although you do not need to purchase the DVD's, you will be responsible for knowing the 660 minutes worth of material they contain.
Course Description	This online class is an integrated instructional program consisting of a eleven (hour-long) episode DVD video series, two examinations, and various written assignments. In addition to the videos, students are required to read 2 textbooks (368 and 549 pages) and view/read/listen/watch other internet materials.

Course Learning Objectives	Upon completion of this course, students should: • Become more proficient in the realm of historiography, especially when analyzing competing, and sometimes conflicting source materials. • Grasp the political, social, and economic realities of the Vietnam War. • Know the chronology of the key events in the Vietnam War. • Appreciate that the Vietnam War was a milestone in American history that has shaped the American character and helped to change political, economic, military, and social institutions. • Realize that the Vietnam War left numerous issues unresolved, many which will continue to challenge this nation and the world into the 21st century. • Comprehend the war and its aftermath from multiple perspectives, from hawk to dove, American to Vietnamese, soldier to civilian.
VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION	No late work is accepted. All assignments are due, for all students, by the due dates and times (Pacific Standard Time) noted on the course website. No make up exams are given. Students will have a 4 or 5 day period of time during which they must complete the midterm and final exams. These dates and times appear the term calendar in Moodle.
Instructor Contact	I am accessible via Moodle messaging, email, voicemail, or in person at scheduled appointments. Moodle messaging is the preferred method since I check the course multiple times each day, weekends included. More importantly, emails often get "lost" in LCC's email spam filter, while Moodle messages never do. LCC requires that all students provide an email address to the college. You should be certain that your email address in ExpressLane and Moodle is correct.
Grading Criteria	Grades Your grade in this course will be based on the following breakdown and scale: Summary: Online Work from the 1st 5 weeks 25% Online Work from the 2nd 5 weeks 25% Midterm Exam 25% Final Exam 25% TOTAL 100% Letter Grades will be as follows: A+= 100% A=93%-99% A-=90%-92% B+=87%-89% B=83%-86% B-=80%-82% C+=77%-79% C=73%-76% C-=70%-72% D+=67%-69% D=63%-66% D-=60%-62% F=<60% Students grades will be always be available to students in Moodle.

Exams	Students will take two non-comprehensive exams which will only be administered by computers at approved testing locations. You will NOT take your exams at home from your own computers. This requirement may cause some of you to have to make special arrangements to come to campus or to another approved testing facility. Read on. The objective exams consist of multiple choice questions, true/false, matching, maps, etc. Each objective exam will have between 75 and 100 questions. Most students will complete an exam in one hour, although you may have as much time as you need. The actual exams must be taken on LCC's Main Campus in CEN456, the Social Science Computer Testing Lab. Be sure to bring a photo ID with you on exam day. IMPORTANT - Exams may also be taken in the LCC Outreach Centers in Florence or Cottage Grove. Students will need to contact the learning center coordinator at least one week in advance of their exam. Hours of operation vary from location to location. The exam deadlines listed in Moodle will apply, not the individual lab hours. VERY IMPORTANT - I realize some students may be taking this class from outside the Willamette Valley in Oregon. If this is the case, be certain to arrange for an exam proctor immediately as this process takes some time. CLICK HERE for more information from the LCC Distance Learning Department. Also, be sure you Moodle message your instructor at LEAST two weeks in advance of the exam with the specific day and time you plan to take your exam. Again, the exam deadlines are absolute, no matter where you live.
Online Work - Assignments & Forums	Students will complete written work based on the required textbook readings, video episodes, and web-based information provided on the class website in Moodle. Assignments will center around weekly materials and include unique prompts. Students will post a number of observations, comments, and constructive replies to other students in several different forums. These posts will also require students to incorporate textbook, internet-based, and video information into their responses and answer ALL questions and sub-questions (in an integrated manner) to receive a decent grade. Grades are weighted in this course in addition to the category weights listed above. In short, the work for each week will be weighted the same as the following week. A paper written during one week will be equal to the posts and replies made in a forum the following week, even though the paper will be scored out of 100 points and the forum posts will be scored out of a possible 9 points. Instructions and deadlines for all assignments and forums will be clearly outlined on a weekly basis on the class website.

A Note On Students and Written Assignments	The most difficult task required of any instructor is that of grading student writing. Although the purpose of these assignments and forums is not to grade based on spelling and grammar, problems in these areas can only detract from the readability and enjoyment of the information presented, not to mention the lack of care or proofreading they illustrate. You do not want me to be proofreading your written assignments and forum posts. You want me (and in the case of forum posts, other students) to be reading your best work and best effort. Therefore, I urge you to seek assistance if writing is not one of your strengths. For more help, other than your instructor, you should contact the Counseling/Advising Center, the Study Skills Learning Center, The Writing Center, the English Department, and/or the Library staff. Combined, these assignments are one half of your grade in this class (50%), more than each individual exam. Consider what you are required to do in order to adequately prepare for just one of these exams, such as reading hundreds of pages of text and watching several hours of video. This should give you an indication of the effort I am looking for in these assignments. In summary: Proofread your writing Do not plagiarize. Violators will be punished to the fullest extent of LCC's academic honesty code
Extra Credit	A failing student cannot pass the course by doing extra credit work. Extra credit will ONLY influence a borderline final class grade. For example, students may use extra credit to go from a D+ to a C- or from a B+ to an A-. Students interested in an extra credit opportunity must Moodle message the instructor AFTER the midterm exam.
Environment for Viewing DVDs	A limited number of DVDs and videocassettes are available for term-long loan from the LCC Library. You may also view the videos while at the library in their media section. Check with the Reference Desk in the Library for additional information All videos must be viewed thoughtfully and critically. You may find yourself pausing and/or replaying certain places to hear and see something again. You may consider watching them a number of times. Do not expect that a casual viewing of the videos will prepare you for the expectations of this course. The multiple episodes on DVDs 1 and 2 will be on the midterm exam. The final exam will cover the multiple episodes on DVDs 3 and 4.
Withdrawal Procedure	The last day to receive a tuition refund is by the end of the FIRST week of the term. The last day to make any schedule changes (grade, pass/no pass, drop) is the end of the 8th week of the term. This includes changing from a grade to a pass/no pass option or dropping the class without it appearing on your transcript.
Students With Disabilities	If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for academic accommodations through Disability Services. For more information, contact Disability Services at (541) 463-5150 (voice) or 463-3079 (TTY), or stop by Building 1, Room 218.