

# **Viet Nam Wars: A Vietnamese Story**

## **History 4193-101**

### **Syllabus**

(subject to change)

Fall 2024

Dr. Rattanasengchanh

Office: OD 234

Classroom: Bea Wood (in PY) 122

Meeting Time: 11:00am to 12:20pm

Email: [mike.rattanasengchanh@msutexas.edu](mailto:mike.rattanasengchanh@msutexas.edu)

- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30pm to 2:30pm and Tuesdays 2:00pm to 3:00pm or by appointment

### **Introduction:**

Most American students and citizens learn about the Viet Nam War through the U.S. perspective but this class will do the opposite. Though the class will discuss the American goals and home front, the focus will be on what North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam wanted and how each sought to achieve their objectives. You will learn about how the war impacted the lives of millions of Vietnamese, both combatant and civilian. The names and cities will be foreign – will not be different from how Americans thought in the 1960s, but with a little time and effort, you will learn about a war that divided the United States and changed how the military fought wars. More importantly, this course might challenge your views on the Viet Nam War and what you learned from the internet, the media, politicians, and family members.

### **Objectives:**

1. This is not your traditional Viet Nam War class. You will learn the war from the perspective of the “other,” the Vietnamese, both north and south.
2. Learn to read 3 memoirs and 1 academic book and analyze their arguments and perspectives.
3. Learn to take readings and formulate an argumentative essay.
4. Learn to listen and take notes.

5. Learn to work in groups through war scenario game.

### **Books/Readings:**

1. Truong Nhu Tang, *A Vietcong Memoir, An Inside Account of the Vietnam War and Its Aftermath*, New York: Vintage Books, 1986
2. Le Ly Hayslip, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places, A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace*, New York et al.: Plume, 1990
3. Primary and secondary sources will be posted in D2L

### **Assignments:** (free response questions)

1. **Exams – (45%)**: (½ from **lectures** and ½ from **readings**)
  - a. Free response questions, no IDs and **no** multiple choice
  - b. You can only use the books, D2L readings, and notes taken from what I say during lectures to take the exams
2. **Two papers (40%)** 4-5 pages - \*\*\* Look at template/instructions document in D2L for more details
  - a. First:
    - i. Using Truong Nhu Tang book
    - ii. Questions:
      - 1.
  - b. Second:
    - i. Using Le Ly Hayslip book
    - ii. Questions:
      1. Why was it difficult being a woman villager during the Viet Nam War?
3. **Participation (15%)**:
  - a. Option of emailing your comments (due by 5pm on the same day of the lecture) if you do not want to speak up in lecture

### **Other Policies**

- No late papers accepted.
- Will use Chat Gpt, Google, and Turnitin

- All assignments are to be submitted in Dropbox AS A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT when they are due. Other formats not accepted (No PDF format accepted).
- Work outside of school, extracurricular activities, and having a number of assignments due in the same week or on the same day are not acceptable reasons for handing work in late.
- DEATH OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, WITH DOCUMENTATION, WILL BE APPROVED. ILLNESS MUST HAVE DOCTOR'S NOTE in order to make-up assignments but this is still up to the discretion of the professor.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***\*Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***\*Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **MSU Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

The following constitutes plagiarism: “the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. While the work of others often constitutes a necessary resource for academic research, such work must be properly used and credited to the original author. This principle applies to professional scholars as well as to students. All work that students submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be their own original work. When students use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of others, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. Direct quotes from any source (including the Internet) must be placed in quotation marks...and be accompanied by an appropriate citation.” Plagiarism will result in the offender receiving zero in the course.

**LAST SEMESTER SEVERAL ONLINE STUDENTS WERE CAUGHT FOR PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ON THE EXAM – zero tolerance.**

## **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

## **Accommodation**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

## **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### **Active Shooter**

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: “*Run. Hide. Fight.*”

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

#### **Notice**

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

#### **Grading Scale:**

92-100%=A  
 90-91%=A-  
 87-89%=B+  
 82-86%=B  
 79-81%=B-  
 77-78%=C+  
 72-76%=C  
 69-71%=C-  
 67-68%=D+  
 62-66%=D  
 59-61%=D-  
 0-58%=F

**Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
August 27, Tuesday	Introduction, Early History	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
August 29, Thursday	Early History – China, Dai Viet, Champa	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 3, Tuesday	French Colonialism	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 5, Thursday	WWI and WWII Period	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 10, Tuesday	French-Viet Minh War	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 12, Thursday	Building Socialism in North Viet Nam; The National Liberation Front (Viet Cong) and North Viet Nam’s Southern Strategy	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 17, Tuesday	Catch up lecture	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 19, Thursday	No Class	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>
September 24, Tuesday	France, Ngo Dinh Diem, US, and Nation Building	- <b>Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i></b>

September 26, Thursday	“The Hmong and the Secret War” Movie	- Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i>
October 1, Tuesday	US “Invasion”	- Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i>
October 3, Thursday	Catch up lecture	- Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i>
October 8, Tuesday	Catch up lecture	- Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i>
October 10, Thursday	International Scene (China & Soviet Union) and Sideshowes (Laos, Thailand, & Cambodia)	- Read <i>Viet Cong Memoir</i>
October 15, Tuesday	Impact of U.S. on Vietnamese Society	- <b>First Paper Due before 11:59pm</b>
October 17, Thursday	Catch up lecture	
October 22, Tuesday	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
October 24, Thursday	Women and the Homefront (both sides)	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
October 29, Tuesday	General Uprising, General Offensive (Tet Offensive) and Results	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
October 31, Thursday	Fighting while Talking; Peace Accords and Final Offensive	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
November 5, Tuesday	Refugee Crisis	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
November 7, Thursday	Catch up lecture	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
November 12, Tuesday	Southeast Asians in the US - assimilation	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
November 14, Thursday	Peace and Reconciliation??? New Nation	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>

November 19, Tuesday	Third Indochina War: Khmer Rouge	- Read <i>When Heaven and Earth Changed Places</i>
November 21, Thursday	Catch up lecture	- <b>Second Paper Due</b> before 11:59pm
November 26, Tuesday <b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>
November 28, Thursday <b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>
December 3, Tuesday	Lasting Legacies	
December 5, Thursday	Last Day of Class	
<b>Final Exam</b> = December 6, Friday 6:00am to December 4, Saturday 11:59pm	<b>Final Exam</b> = December 6, Friday 6:00am to December 4, Saturday 11:59pm	<b>Final Exam</b> = December 6, Friday 6:00am to December 4, Saturday 11:59pm