HIS 154: Vietnam War America
Messiah College

January Term 1999
daily
8:45 a.m. - noon
Climenhaga 33

Prof. J. LaGrand
Office: Frey 230
Telephone: ext. 7381
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Office hours: by appointment

DESCRIPTION:
This is the story of our longest war, a war that continues to divide Americans twenty years after it ended. We will look at the war itself, its origins, the strategies of both sides, and the experiences of ordinary soldiers. We will also look at the things that have kept memory of the war alive: the place Vietnam has in movies and popular culture, the controversies that still fuel debate, and the ways the war changed the United States and the world.

OBJECTIVES:
The objectives of the course are: to gain a more intimate and thoughtful understanding of the Vietnam War and its effects, and to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills.

REQUIRED READINGS--BOOKS FOR PURCHASE IN BOOKSTORE:
Tang, Nhu Truong. A Viet Cong Memoir.

REQUIREMENTS:
read 3 books listed above
write 4 quizzes
write final exam
write paper of 5-7 double-spaced pages on an outside book or movie
participate in student discussion group
regular attendance and participation
STANDARD OF EVALUATION:
The final grade for the course will be derived as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>quiz #1</td>
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<td>quiz #2</td>
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<td>quiz #3</td>
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<td>final exam</td>
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<td>paper</td>
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<td>group work &amp; class participation</td>
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STUDENT DISCUSSION GROUPS:
Students will participate on one of three student discussion groups (on Tang, chs. 1-8; Downs, all; or Tang, chs. 13-24). Each group will be responsible for providing classmates with a list of questions on their reading before class discussion, and for leading class discussion.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:
It goes without saying that you must attend class regularly in order to participate. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Beyond this minimal participation in the class (which will earn you only a minimal participation grade), you can gain participation points by regularly asking or answering questions, and by responding to readings, lectures, and films when given the opportunity.

NOTE ON ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY:
As stated on page 42 of the Messiah College catalog, academic dishonesty of any kind (including cheating and plagiarism) violates the community standards of Messiah College, as well as those of the larger community of scholars into which you enter through this course. As such, any cases will be punished appropriately. However, please do not hesitate to talk to the instructor if you have any questions about how to use or cite outside sources.
SCHEDULE

[NOTE: ALL DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE]

Mon., Jan. 11  Introduction;
Vietnam & the World to 1945

reading: Herring, ch. 1.

discussion of Tang, chs. 1-8 directed by group #1

Thurs., Jan. 14  Quiz #1 on lectures of Jan. 11-13;
JFK’s New Frontier & Nation-Building, 1961-1964
reading: Herring, chs. 2-3.

Fri., Jan. 15  Film: The Green Berets

Mon., Jan. 18  LBJ’s War, 1965
reading: Herring, ch. 4.

Quiz #2 on Downs & discussion directed by group #2
reading: Downs, all.

reading: Herring, ch. 5.

Thurs., Jan. 21  Quiz #3 on lectures of Jan. 18-20;
Tet, 1968
reading: Herring, ch. 6; Tang, chs. 9-12.

Fri., Jan. 22  Film: Platoon

Mon., Jan. 25  Nixon’s War & the Fall of South Vietnam, 1969-1975;
Quiz #4 on Tang, chs. 13-24 & discussion directed by group #3
reading: Tang, chs. 13-24; Herring, ch. 7.

Tues., Jan. 26  Film: The Deer Hunter


Thurs., Jan. 28  Consequences & Aftermath of the War;
Discussion of Papers (Paper DUE);
Review
reading: Herring, ch. 8.

Fri., Jan. 29  Exam
LIST OF OUTSIDE BOOKS FOR PAPER

[others approved by instructor]
LIST OF MOVIES FOR PAPER

Apocalypse Now
Bat 21
Born on the Fourth of July
Braddock: Missing in Action III
Coming Home
First Blood
Fly Away Home
Full Metal Jacket
Gardens of Stone
Hamburger Hill
Heartbreak Ridge
Heaven and Earth
Missing in Action
Missing in Action II: The Beginning
Rambo: First Blood, Part II
The Killing Fields
The Boys in Company C
Uncommon Valor
[others approved by instructor]