

**Department of History
Moravian College
Fall 2009**

**History 192
History of Vietnam
Tu/Th 8:55-10:05
Comenius Hall 309**

Instructor: Ian Wendt
Office: 302 Comenius Hall
Office hours: MW 1:30-2:30; TR 11:30-12:30; or by appointment
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Course Description:

We examine the cultures and history of mainland Southeast Asia, with special attention to Vietnam. Using primary sources, we will study early states, world trade, colonialism, nationalism, resistance, and post-war Vietnam. We will examine the ethnic and cultural diversity of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand including: gender, race, religion, and political institutions. Wars in Vietnam against the Japanese, French and Americans will be examined in detail.

In order to help you understand and engage with the history and cultures of Vietnam and Southeast Asia, you will read from a variety of primary sources, participate in lectures and discussions, and write several essays, papers and examinations. These assignments are structured to help you learn, expand the world you live in, and help you begin to participate in and contribute to complex, diverse and sometimes troubled global communities.

Course Goals:

The materials, assignments, and instruction in this course are geared toward helping you develop the skills and attributes central to a historical and liberal arts education.

- To learn about the diverse histories, cultures, religions, and societies of Southeast Asia, a region that contains about one-fourth of the world's population.
- To read and comprehend the primary sources and academic texts from Southeast Asian history and culture;
- To think critically and analytically about sources, including core questions, arguments, perspectives, assumptions, supporting data/evidence, contexts, conclusions and implications;
- To communicate your ideas through discussion, presentation, and writing;
- To organize, frame and write clear and concise essays and papers that demonstrate the critical thinking skills described above;
- To better understand your own goals, perspectives and values as well as those of the diverse cultures and societies in our world.

Textbooks and other reading materials:

Required books in the Bookstore:

Robert McMahon, ed. *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War*, 4th ed. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

D.R. SarDesai, *Vietnam: Past and Present*, 4th edition. Westview Press, 2005.

Suggested book:

Stanley Karnow. *Vietnam: A History*. Penguin, 1997.

Course Requirements and Grading:	points
Participation	40
Attendance, Reading Assignments, Discussions, In-Class Essays	
Primary Source Papers (four)	80 (20 each)
3 pages each or 750 words	
Examinations (two)	40 (20 each)
Research Paper	50
7 to 8 pages, or 2000 words	
	<hr/> 250 points

Description of Assignments:

Participation: Attendance, demonstrating your comprehension of reading materials, asking questions, and participating in discussions will all be evaluated as part of the course. We will read and discuss numerous primary sources from diverse Indian philosophical, religious, cultural and historical contexts. Your preparation and participation in these discussions will be critical to our learning experience in this course. Participation will also be measured by periodic in-class essays, which will encourage you to think analytically and critically about the themes from class that day.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken regularly during the semester. Failure to attend class on a regular basis will lower your participation grade, and will certainly affect your ability to perform well on examinations, essays and papers.

Note: The reading materials and the lecture or discussion content in the classroom are complimentary, but not identical. The reading materials will be crucial to your writing assignments, including exams. We will not cover every subject from the books in our class meetings. In addition, some materials that are not in the books will be introduced in the classroom. Therefore it is very important that you participate in every aspect of the course.

Primary Source Papers (Four): You will have the opportunity to research four topics of particular interest to you and write short papers. We will consult together regarding appropriate topics. The main research sources for these papers will be the primary or original sources from the Indian tradition. Other sources may include other assigned readings, lecture material, and additional library texts on your chosen topic. These papers will be up to three pages or 750 words long. Your papers should demonstrate research, critical thinking, argumentation, organization, substantiating detail, citation of sources, and good writing style.

Examinations: The two class examinations will cover the broad themes of the course. They will include geography, short answers, and short essays.

Research Paper: The Research Paper assignment will give you an opportunity to delve further into a specific topic of interest to you in Indian History. I encourage you to expand and revise one of your short primary source papers. The topic and bibliography must both be approved by the instructor, (see calendar for dates). Your sources should include both the required texts and additional sources from the library. The paper will be 7 to 8 pages long or about 2000 words. It should demonstrate research, critical thinking, argumentation, organization, substantiating detail, citation of sources, and good writing style.

All written assignments must be submitted both on paper and electronically as an email attachment to iwendt@moravian.edu

Grading Rubric:

Your written work will be evaluated based on the following principles (adapted from the Critical Thinking Rubric).

Problem/Argumentation: Essays and papers must make clear arguments or address clear themes.

The *problem* or *question* identifies the central argument, or main point, and it should be stated clearly in the beginning of the essay. The essay should then proceed to make clear *substantiating arguments* that develop that central problem, question or theme.

Organization: Essays and papers should be well organized with an introduction, body and conclusion. The *introduction* includes the problem or question, a description of the paper's organization, and other brief introductory thoughts. The *body* develops the substantiating arguments of the essay and utilizes evidence and details to support those ideas. The *conclusion* is more than a summary; it ought to trace the implications and consequences derived from the evidence presented in order to draw concluding insights.

Evidence: The body of the paper or essay must support its arguments with detailed evidence drawn from lecture and reading sources. The best essays are very specific and detailed, and examine the sources of evidence. Weaker essays are vague, unspecific and repetitive, make little use of reading materials, and make false evidentiary claims.

Citations: Your essays must identify their sources. Cite your sources with either footnotes or parenthetical references. For example: (McMahon, 72.) Quoted sections must be bracketed by quotation marks and cited. Failure to cite sources can result in plagiarism. Carefully citing sources will always improve your essay's evaluation.

Language: Your writing should be correctly spelled, grammatical and clear. Weak language includes misspellings, incorrect grammar, and incoherent or unclear sentences.

Your grades will be recorded and calculated on a percentile scale:

	93%+ = A	90%+ = A-
87%+ = B+	83%+ = B	80%+ = B-
77%+ = C+	73%+ = C	70%+ = C-
60%+ = D	below 50% = F	

Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day.

I reserve some room for flexibility and discretion in grading. Hard work, overall improvement, and thorough engagement in the course and course material will be considered favorably.

Calendar:

Week 1 – Sept 1, 3

Introduction to mainland Southeast Asia - Geography, Culture and History

Week 2 – Sept 8, 10

Ancient Khmer culture
Ancient Vietnamese culture
Religions and Philosophies
Sinocization, Indianization
READ SarDesai, Chapter 1
McMahon, Chapter 1
Karnow, Chapter 1

Week 3 – Sept 15, 17

Vietnamese expansion under the Nguyen Dynasty
Thai and Burmese expansion in Southeast Asia
READ SarDesai Chapter 2
Karnow, Chapter 2

Week 4 – Sept 22, 24

French colonialism in Indochina
READ SarDesai, Chapter 3
McMahon, Chapter 2
Karnow, Chapter 3

Primary Source Paper #1 Due in class Thurs, Sept 24th

Week 5 – Sept 29, Oct 1

Vietnamese Nationalism
World War One, World War Two
READ SarDesai, Chapter 4, pp.43-55
McMahon, Chapter 2
Karnow, Chapter 4

Week 6 – Oct 6, 8

The War with the French
READ SarDesai, Chapter 4, pp.56-64
McMahon, Chapter 3
Karnow, Chapter 5

Week 7 – Oct 13, 15

Treaty with the French
Vietnam divided - Three Vietnams, Two Vietnams, One Vietnam?
READ McMahon, Chapter 4

Karnow, Chapter 6
Primary Source Paper #2 Due Thurs, Oct 15th in class

Week 8 – Oct 20, 22

U.S. entry into the Vietnam conflict
Cold War politics in Southeast Asia
READ SarDesai, Chapter 5
McMahon, Chapter 5
Karnow, Chapters 6 & 7

First Exam Thurs Oct 22nd

Week 9 – Oct 27, 29

Who Fought for the U.S.
The end of Diem
How the U.S. fought the War –
New technology, body counts, search and destroy, pacification of South
Vietnamese, the air war against North Vietnam
READ McMahon, Chapter 6
Karnow, Chapter 8

Week 10 – Nov 3, 5

Escalation of the War
When War Becomes a Crime: The case of My Lai
READ McMahon, Chapter 7 & 8
Karnow, Chapters 9 & 10

Primary Source Paper #3 Due in class

Week 11 – Nov 10, 12

The Tet Offensive - the Tipping Point
Vietnam War in the Movies
READ McMahon, Chapter 10 & 11
Karnow, Chapters 11 & 12

Week 12 – Nov 17, 19

The Anti-war Movement
The Paris Peace Accords and the Fall of South Vietnam
READ McMahon, Chapters 12 & 13
Karnow, Chapters 13 & 14

Research Paper Topic and Bibliography Due in class

Week 13 - Nov 24

The Wounds of War
The costs and aftermath of war in Vietnam
The costs and aftermath of war in the U.S.
READ SarDesai, Chapter 6
McMahon, Chapter 15

Karnow, Chapter 15
Primary Source Paper #4 Due in class

Week 14 – Dec 1, 3

Post-War Vietnam, politics
Genocide in Southeast Asia
Khmer Rouge
Indonesia, 1965
READ SarDesai, Chapters 7 & 8
McMahon, Chapter 14
Karnow, Chapter 16

Week 15 – Dec 8

Normalization of relations
Economic reforms
Continuing one party Communist State
READ SarDesai, Chapters 9 & 10
Second Exam in class Tuesday Dec 8th

Finals Week

Research Paper Due Tues Dec 15th by 5pm in my office

If you have any problems or complaints associated with the course or the evaluation of your work, please feel free to talk to me. Visit me during office hours, or call or email me, for any assistance I may give you. If you are struggling with any course material, contact me. In particular, if you feel that you have been treated inappropriately, or if you have questions about the content or environment of the course, please come and talk to me. I look forward to working together and getting to know each other.

Equity, Diversity, Trust and Respect

In order for our meetings and discussions to be open, thoughtful and interactive, there must be an environment of trust and respect. You do not need to agree with everything other participants say, whether other students or the instructor. But discrimination or harassment against other class members due to race, gender, disability or any other reason is unacceptable. If you feel you have been treated unfairly or improperly in any way during the course, please come and talk to me. I will do everything I can to help rectify the situation.

Disability Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Please provide documentation in support of accommodations you may require within the first three weeks of the term to the instructor.

Academic Integrity

Dr. Wendt and Moravian College are intolerant of any form for academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is using the language and/or thoughts of another person and representing them as your own. I expect all of your essays and papers to be your own work. When using language or ideas from a book or other source, you must properly reference that source. (Refer to the St. Martin's Handbook with any questions; or see me.) Feel free to study and discuss together with other members of the class. But your written assignments or exams must be your own work, and must cite all outside sources. The penalty for plagiarism is failing the course. The Student Conduct office will also be notified, and will proceed as appropriate with regard to student status and permanent records.