History 4990-001  
Senior Seminar  
The Vietnam War

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Phone 581-6798; 244-3403

Office Hours: 9:30 – 10:30 MWF  
& by appointment  
e-mail: ray.gunn@utah.edu

Required Texts: (Available in Book Store)

George Donelson Moss, Vietnam: An American Ordeal (Sixth Edition)

Course Description:

The Senior Seminar is designed to be the capstone of the History major. Its purpose is to provide students with an intensive, practical research and writing experience. The focus of this seminar will be the Vietnam War. The first 10 weeks or so of the semester will be devoted to common readings and discussions about various aspects of the Vietnam War based on the Moss book and documentary films as well as discussions of research methods and practices as they relate to the war. The principal requirement of the course is a scholarly paper based on primary and secondary sources about some aspect of the war or its legacy. The paper is to be approximately 20-25 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, with formal footnotes (or endnotes) and bibliography. Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (6th or later edition) is to be the guide for all footnote and bibliographic citations. An excellent condensed version can be found on the Internet at: www.library.otago.ac.nz/pdf/chicago-turabianstyle.pdf

As part of the process of preparing the paper, students are required to identify a topic, in consultation with the instructor, no later than Tuesday, September 22. On that date, each student will hand in a brief statement (no more than a few sentences or a brief paragraph) indicating a proposed topic. This should be typed, double-spaced on a normal, letter sized sheet of paper, with your name and e-mail address in the upper left hand corner. We will take a few minutes in class that day for each student to share her/his proposed topic with the rest of the class.

In addition, each student will be required to prepare a research design (prospectus) of 3-5 pages (typed, double-spaced). The research design outlines the topic, hypothesis, methodology, and sources to be used in completing the paper. The research designs will be due October 20. During weeks 12 – 15 students will complete the research and writing of their papers. During this period, each student will have at least one scheduled meeting with me to discuss progress on the paper. I will also be available during regular class times for individual consultations and strongly urge you to take advantage of such
opportunities to meet with me to discuss progress on your papers. On December 8, we will meet again as a class for a final discussion of the topic and any issues students may have in their research and writing.

Final papers will be due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11. This is a firm deadline. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each calendar day beyond the deadline. Incompletes will be given only for the most serious emergencies. The papers should include a cover sheet with the title and your name centered. It should be stapled in the upper left hand corner. I prefer that you not submit your paper in any kind of folder or binder. I will also not accept a paper delivered electronically, although you should always keep a copy (either electronic or hard) in case of a lost or misplaced paper.

Students are expected to attend each scheduled class meeting, read all the assigned material and participate actively in class discussions.

Grading:

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>65%</td>
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Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the University of Utah Student Code. Plagiarism is defined in the Student Code (Policy 6-400, Section I, B, 2, c as follows:

“Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual’s words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
**Weekly Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Text</th>
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| 1    | (Aug. 25)   | Introduction to the Course  
*Dear America* |
| 2    | (Sept. 1)   | Moss, *Vietnam*, xi-49  
*Roots of War* |
| 3    | (Sept. 8)   | Moss, *Vietnam*, 51-119  
*America's Mandarin* |
| 4    | (Sept. 15)  | Moss, *Vietnam*, 120-159  
*American Takes Charge* |
| 5    | (Sept. 22)  | Moss, *Vietnam*, 160-220  
**DEADLINE FOR SELECTION OF PAPER TOPICS** |
| 6    | (Sept. 29)  | Moss, *Vietnam*, 221-273  
*Tet 1968* |
| 7    | (Oct. 6)    | A War of Atrocity?  
*Remembering My Lai* |
| 8    | (Oct. 13)   | **FALL BREAK** |
| 9    | (Oct. 20)   | Moss, *Vietnam*, 274-310  
*Cambodia and Laos* |
| 10   | (Oct. 27)   | Moss, *Vietnam*, 311-338  
*Homefront, USA* |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 (Nov. 3)</td>
<td>Moss, <em>Vietnam</em>, 339-364</td>
</tr>
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<td><em>The End of the Tunnel</em></td>
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<td>12 (Nov. 10)</td>
<td>Independent Research: Individual Consultation</td>
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<td>13 (Nov. 17)</td>
<td>Independent Research—Individual Consultation</td>
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<td>14 (Nov. 24)</td>
<td>Independent Research: Individual Consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 (Dec. 1)</td>
<td>Independent Research: Individual Consultation</td>
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<td>16 (Dec. 8)</td>
<td>Final Class Discussion: Legacies</td>
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<td>Moss, <em>Vietnam</em>, 365-382</td>
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**Friday, Dec. 11** **Final Papers Due by 5:00 p.m.**