

Writing 20, Spring 2008

Professor Erik Harms



University Writing Program : Art Building 200M : eharms@duke.edu

Course Meetings: White Lec. 106
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Sec. 57 3:05-3:55 pm
Sec. 52 4:40-5:30 pm

Office Hours:
Art Building 200M
Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Or by appointment

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore the profound social changes that have transformed Việt Nam since the end of what the Vietnamese call the "American War" in 1975. Through diverse academic essays, students will look critically at the relationship between utopian dreams and everyday realities as they play out in the relationship between the Vietnamese state, Vietnamese society, and an increasingly global world. We will explore the political, economic, and social-cultural challenges of implementing socialism and the ensuing social transformations created by Vietnam's entry into the global capitalist marketplace. We will compare the emphasis on modernization and development with religious revivals and the resurgent emphasis on something called "traditional Vietnamese culture". Throughout the semester, students will also be in email communication with English speaking Vietnamese university students, who will guide them in a cross-cultural exchange designed to introduce them to life in contemporary Vietnam. In addition to response papers and formal essays addressing the literature on economic, cultural and political change, these transnational email conversations will provide a form of "virtual anthropological fieldwork" that will give an insider's perspective into Vietnamese life, and provide a valuable source of information for a final essay project about life in Vietnam today.

Course Goals and Structure:

In this course, we don't simply learn to write but write in order to learn. As a hands-on, practical course, improvement in student writing skills will come through the act of writing itself, and we will use class-time to prepare for writing, to write, and to comment on each others' writing. Students should also engage with the reading assignments and begin to think critically about Post-War Vietnamese Society and Culture. If successful, the course should help students to think creatively about topics raised in readings and discussions and transform these thoughts into powerful essays, convincing arguments, or creative pieces that push the limits of our thinking. As an anthropology course, we will try to stand outside our own social and cultural biases and look freshly at these concepts. As a writing course we will try to avoid the heavy weight of technical jargon

and abstract concepts in order to produce quality essays that can be read across the disciplines.

The course will consist of three major essays, all of which will be preceded by several in-class or take-home pre-writing exercises. While most essays will be written over the course of several-week units with pre-writing exercises leading up to a final paper, the culminating essay of the course will be a guided research paper designed by the student and utilizing outside research to explore and analyze real world problems in Post-War Vietnam. This research should include work using the library, but can also draw on either textual evidence or evidence gathered from outside the classroom in the form of email discussions with Vietnamese students. Students should be prepared to submit a brief proposal presenting their paper topics and anticipated research agenda by the time we get to Spring break. Final versions of these papers will be due on the last day of class.

Special Scheduling

Throughout the semester, we will be viewing several full-length films. In order to maximize our viewing experience, I have reserved room 204B in the East Duke building for Thursday evening screenings (between 7:00 and 9:00 pm). Dates are indicated in the syllabus. On weeks we view films, we will cancel the Friday meeting of class, unless otherwise noted in the syllabus. Students whose schedules do not permit Thursday evening film viewing must consult with the instructor in order to plan alternate arrangements for viewing the films. Please consult your calendars as early in the semester as possible to avoid complications. You are welcome to bring guests to the film screenings.

The Schedule of Films is as follows:

Date	Film Title	Director
Thursday, Jan. 31st	Three Seasons	Tony Bui (1999)
Thursday, Feb. 7th	Cyclo	Tran Anh Hung (1995)
Tuesday, Feb. 12th	Buffalo Boy *	Minh Nguyen Vo (2004)
Thursday, Feb. 21st	Sound of the Violin in My Lai	Tran Van Thuy (2000)
Thursday, Feb. 28th	TBA	
Thursday, Mar. 20th	The Last Ghost of War	Janet Gardner (2007)
Thursday, Apr. 3rd	The Vertical Ray of the Sun	Tran Anh Hung (2000)

* Note Special Date, and Showing in Griffith Film Theater, with visit from the Director.

Grading:

Grades will be based primarily on the written assignments (including drafts and final essays, and in-class writing assignments). The total course grade will be calculated as a percentage of accumulated points. (A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; etc.).

- As indicated in the chart below, two essays will be graded on a 100 point scale and one will be worth 200 points.
- Throughout the semester, several "low-stakes" writing assignments will be given "all or nothing points" as long as the student has completed the assignment satisfactorily.
- Attendance and classroom participation are essential to success in the course, and students who fail to attend all class meetings, or who consistently arrive late or fail to participate, will see their final course grade affected.

Major papers and their due dates are as follows:

Date Due	Topic	Weight of Paper
Wed. Feb. 6th	"Encountering Vietnam"	100 points
Wed. Mar. 6th	"Vietnamese Post-War Change"	100 points
Wed. Apr. 23rd	"Virtual Ethnography"	200 points

****Note that each paper represents the culmination of several lead-up projects and assignments. The due-dates for those assignments are noted below in the course schedule section of this syllabus.****

Course Policies:

- Students must attend all of the scheduled classes, unless excused in advance by the instructor. Students anticipating the need to miss class for religious holidays or for approved participation in University athletics should inform the instructor during the first two weeks of class.
- Students must hand in papers on time at the beginning of class on the date indicated on this syllabus. Papers should be double-spaced, using standard 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. Unexcused late papers will not receive anything higher than a "B". Students anticipating the need for an extension must forewarn the instructor at least one week in advance. On occasion, I will ask you to submit papers online using the "Blackboard" course website or via email. Papers or assignments submitted electronically should always be saved as Microsoft Word documents with standardized filenames according to the following format:

yourlastname.assignment#.doc
(ie: "harms.1a.doc")

- Unless otherwise noted, the readings indicated for a particular week should be completed by the first class meeting of the week. (Note: Readings marked with a hollow bullet point, "○", are optional).
- Don't plagiarize! Students should be familiar with the Duke University Honor Code:

<http://www.integrity.duke.edu/ugrad/student.html>

And students should visit the library's useful guide to citing sources at:

<http://library.duke.edu/research/guides/citing/>

If you have questions about citing sources or remain unclear about plagiarism, please feel free to ask me, a reference librarian in any of the Duke libraries, or staff members at the Writing Studio. If you plagiarize you will fail the class.

Course Materials:

- All course readings indicated in the course schedule are available as electronic text reserves accessible online via Blackboard. Most readings are scanned as pdf files and can be found under "e-reserves". Readings marked with the notation "CR" are located in a folder called "Course Readings" in the "Course Documents" section of Blackboard.
- I also encourage students to consider purchasing a writing handbook. I recommend a practical reference book by Diana Hacker:

-Hacker, Diana. (2003). *A Writer's Reference*. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's.

During the first week of class, I encourage you to look through this and other writing handbooks and decide which one you like. (The styles vary quite widely, and it is most important to find a book you feel you will actually *use* and refer to). You are not required to purchase such a book, but you may well find it a wise investment.

Course Schedule:

Introduction: Post-War Vietnam

Week 1: Course Introduction

For Friday, please read:

- Selections from the Vietnamese Constitution
- Selections from Nguyen Quoc Chanh and Nguyen Chi Thien available at www.vietnamlit.org. (CR)
- Images from Vietnamese Papers Immediately After "Giải Phóng" (CR)

Wednesday, January 9th: Kính chào quý khách! Welcome to Việt Nam!

Friday, January 11th: Liberation or loss of country? Giải Phóng / mất nước?

PART ONE: Big Changes. Politics, Economy, and Society

Week 2: Collectivization and the Implementation of Socialism/Communism

For this week, please read:

- Duiker, William J. (1989). Domestic Affairs. Vietnam since the fall of Saigon. Athens, Ohio, Ohio University Center for International Studies.
- Taylor, Philip (2001). Renunciations of Socialism. Fragments of the Present: Searching for Modernity in Vietnam's South. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press.
- Ngo Vinh Long (1988). Some Aspects of Cooperativization in the Mekong Delta. Postwar Vietnam: Dilemmas in Socialist Development. Marr, David G. & Christine P. White. Ithaca, NY, Cornell Southeast Asia Program: 163-173.

Monday, January 14th: Building Socialism

Wednesday, January 16th: The Challenges of Socialism

✓ **Assignment 1A: Viewing Images of Utopia**

Friday, January 18th: Resistance to Socialism

✓ **Assignment 1B: Unpacking Utopia: Deciphering the Image**

Week 3: Decollectivization and the Challenge to Socialism

For this week, please read:

- Kerkvliet, Benedict J. Tria (2005). Introduction and chapter summaries. from The Power of Everyday Politics: How Vietnamese Peasants Transformed National Policy. Ithaca, Cornell University Press.
- White, Christine Pelzer (1988). Alternative Approaches to the Socialist Transformation of Agriculture in Postwar Vietnam. Postwar Vietnam: Dilemmas in Socialist Development. Marr, David G. & Christine P. White. Ithaca, NY, Cornell Southeast Asia Program: 133-146.

Monday, January 21st: No-Class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday

Wednesday, January 23rd: Dismantling Collectivization

✓ **Assignment 1C: Placing the Image in Context**

Friday, January 25th: What Comes After Socialism?

Week 4: Đổi Mới, "Market Oriented Socialism" and Economic Development

For this week, please read:

- Le-Duc-Thuy (1993). Economic Doi Moi in Vietnam. Reinventing Vietnamese socialism : doi moi in comparative perspective. Turley, William S. and Selden, Mark. Boulder, Westview Press.
- Porter, Gareth (1993). Bureaucratic Centralism and Economic Liberalization. Vietnam : the politics of bureaucratic socialism. Ithaca, Cornell University Press: 128-151.
- Kolko, Gabriel (1997). The postwar economy and the origins of "market socialism". Vietnam : anatomy of a peace. London ; New York, Routledge: 19-30.
- Taylor, Philip (2003). Social Inequality in a Socialist State. Social Inequality in Vietnam and the Challenges to Reform. Taylor, Philip. Singapore, ISEAS: 1-40.

Monday, January 28th: What is Đổi Mới?

Wednesday, January 30th: What is "Market-Oriented Socialism"?

✓ **Assignment 1D: The Image Speaks in Many Tongues**

❖ **Thursday January 31st: Film, Three Seasons. :**

Friday, February 1st: No-class. Film on Thursday Night.

Week 5: Urbanization and the Rural Transformation

For Friday, please read:

- Leshkovich, Ann Marie (2005). Feminine Disorder: State Campaigns against Street Traders in Socialist and Late Socialist Việt Nam. Le Việt Nam au féminin [Việt Nam: Women's Realities]. Bousquet, Gisèle and Nora Taylor. Paris, Les Indes Svantes.
- Drummond, Lisa (2000). "Street Scenes: Practices of Public and Private Space in Urban Vietnam." Urban Studies 37(12): 2377-2391. (CR)
- (Recommended) Thrift, Nigel and Dean Forbes (1986). The Price of War: Urbanization in Vietnam: 1954-1985. London, Allen & Unwin.
- (Recommended) Thomas, Mandy (2002). "Out of Control: Emergent Cultural Landscapes and Political Change in Urban Vietnam." Urban Studies 34(9): 1611-1624. (CR)

Monday, February 4th: Peer-review

✓ **Assignment 1E: Project 1 Draft**

✓ **Assignment 1F: In-class Peer-review of Project 1 Draft**

Wednesday, February 6th: Street Life, Urban Order, Security, and State-Society Relations in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi

✓ **Project 1 Final Draft due in class and on Blackboard.**

❖ **Thursday, Feb. 7th: Film, Cyclo**

Friday, February 8th: No-class. Film on Thursday Night.

PART TWO: Cultural Aspects of Social Change

Week 6: Cultural Aspects of Economic Change

For this week, please read:

- Luong, Hy Van (1999). Capitalist and Noncapitalist Ideologies in the Structure of Northern Vietnamese Ceramics Enterprises. Culture and Economy: The Shaping of Capitalism in Eastern Asia. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press: 187-206.
- Truitt, Allison (2007). Cold Cash and Hot Loans in Southern Vietnam. Money: Ethnographic Encounters. Senders, Stefan and Allison Truitt. New York, Berg.
- Vann, Elizabeth (2006). "The Limits of Authenticity in Vietnamese Consumer Markets." American Anthropologist 108(2): 286-296. (CR)
- Malarney, Shaun Kingsley (2003). Weddings and Funerals in Contemporary Vietnam. Vietnam: Journeys of Body, Mind, and Spirit. Nguyen Van Huy and Laurel Kendall. New York, University of California Press: 173-195.

Monday, February 11th: Market Economy

- ✓ **Assignment 2A: Wiki Outline of Vietnam Since 1975**

❖ **Tuesday, Feb. 12th: Film, Buffalo Boy (Note Special Venue: Griffith Film Theater in the Bryan Center)**

Wednesday, February 13th: Ritual Economy

- ✓ **Assignment 2B: Case Study of Post-War Change**

Friday, February 15th: No-class. Film on Thursday Night.

Week 7: Memory and Forgetting

For this week, please read:

- Kwon, Heonik (2006). A Generation Afterward. After the Massacre: Commemoration and Consolation in Ha My and My Lai. Berkeley, University of California Press: 60-84.
- MacLean, Ken (2007). Commemorating Everyday Life before Normalization: Whither Late Socialism? Modernities and Dynamics of Tradition in Vietnam. Binh Chau, Vietnam. (CR)
- Malarney, Shaun Kingsley (2001). "The Fatherland Remembers Your Sacrifice": Commemorating War Dead in North Vietnam. The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam. Hue-Tam Ho Tai. California, University of California Press: 46-76.

Monday, February 18th: Remembering Tragedy

- ✓ **Assignment 2C: Contested Visions of Social Change**

Wednesday, February 20th: Remembering Sacrifice and Deprivation

- ✓ **Assignment 2D: Outline Draft of Essay**

❖ **Thursday, Feb. 21st: Film, Tran Van Thuy**

Friday, February 22nd: No-class. Film on Thursday Night.

Week 8: Religion and Ritual Revival

For this Monday, please read:

- Taylor, Philip (2004). Familiar Journeys. Goddess on the Rise: Pilgrimage and Popular Religion in Vietnam. Honolulu, University of Hawai'i Press: 135-164.
- Endres, Kirsten (2007). Engaging the Spirits of the Dead: Soul Calling Rituals and the Performative Construction of Efficacy. Modernities and Dynamics of Tradition in Vietnam. Binh Chau, Vietnam. (CR)
- Saleminck, Oscar (2007). Seeking spiritual security in contemporary Vietnam. Modernities and Dynamics of Tradition in Vietnam. Binh Chau, Vietnam. (CR)

Monday, February 25th: Religion and Ritual Revival

Wednesday, February 27th: In-class Peer-Review of Project 2 Draft

- ✓ 2E: 1st Draft of Essay 2
- ✓ 2F: In-class Peer-Review of Project 2 Draft

❖ Thursday, Feb. 28th: Film, TBA

Friday, February 29th: No-Class. Film on Thursday Night.

Week 9: Tourism and the Representation of Culture

For Friday, please read:

- Alneng, Victor (2002). "What the Fuck is a Vietnam?": Touristic Phantasms and the Popcolonization of (the) Vietnam (War)." Critique of Anthropology 22(4): (CR)

Monday, March 3rd: In-class Peer-Review of Project 2 Papers

- ✓ 2G: Second Draft of Essay 2
- ✓ 2H: In-class peer-review of Essay 2

Wednesday, March 5th: Tourist Visions of Vietnam

- ✓ Project 2 Final Draft due in class and on Blackboard.

Friday, March 7th: No-class (Final paper proposal due on Blackboard)

- ✓ **Assignment 3A: Final Paper proposal**

SPRING BREAK (Friday, March 7th 7:00 p.m. Spring recess begins – Monday, March 17th 8:30 a.m. Classes resume)

Before you leave for Spring break, turn in a proposal for final paper. You may submit this proposal to the assignments page on blackboard. Proposal should include a brief description of the topic, a preliminary bibliography, and a description of any methods to be used in analyzing the topic. After break we will schedule individual meetings to discuss your final paper proposals.

Week 10: NO CLASS -- SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 10th: SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 12th: SPRING BREAK

Friday, March 14th: SPRING BREAK

PART THREE: Personal Histories and Contested Visions of Vietnam's Transformation

Week 11: Re-education, Reconciliation, Rebuilding

For this week, please read:

- Hayslip, Le Ly (1990). "Coming Back" and "Finding a Family". When Heaven and Earth Changed Places. New York, Plume: 1-25; 292-316.
- Huỳnh Sanh Thông, Ed. (1988). "Selections" from To Be Made Over: tales of socialist reeducation in Vietnam. The Lạc-Việt Series. New Haven, CT, Council on Southeast Asian Studies: Yale Center for International and Area Studies. (CR)
- Film "The Last Ghost of War"

Monday, March 17th: Escape and Overseas Vietnamese (Viet Kieu)

✓ **Assignment 3B: Interview Questions**

Wednesday, March 19th: Rebuilding

❖ **Thursday, March 20th: Film, The Last Ghost of War**

Friday, March 21st: Discussion on Agent Orange

Week 12: Village Politics and Contested Visions of Political Power

For this week, please read:

- Luong, Hy Van (1992). Chapter 5: The Revolution in the Village, 1954-1988. Revolution in the Village. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press: 169-219.
- Malarney, Shaun Kingsley (1997). "Culture, Virtue, And Political Transformation In Contemporary Northern Vietnam." The Journal of Asian Studies 56(4) (November): 899-920. (CR)
- Kleinen, John (1999). Is There a Village Vietnam? Vietnamese Villages in Transition. Houben, Bernhard Dham and Vincent J. Passau, Germany, Passau University Department of Southeast Asian Studies. 7. (CR)

Monday, March 24th: Contested Village Histories

Wednesday, March 26th: Village Politics

✓ **Assignment 3C: 1st Interview Transcripts**

Friday, March 28th: Rethinking the Vietnamese Village

✓ **Assignment 3D: Developing Follow-Up Questions**

Week 13: Transforming Gender relations

For this week, please read:

- Thu-huong, Nguyễn-võ (2002). Governing Sex: Medicine and Governmental Intervention in Prostitution. Gender, Household, State: Đổi Mới in Việt Nam. Werner, Jayne and Danièle Bélanger. Ithaca, Cornell University Southeast Asia Program.
- Phinney, Harriet (2005). "Asking for a Child: The Refashioning of Reproductive Space in Post-War Northern Vietnam." The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology 6(3): 215-230. (CR)
- Gammeltoft, Tine, and Hạnh Thị Thuý Nguyễn, (2007). "Fetal conditions and fatal decisions: Ethical dilemmas in ultrasound screening in Vietnam." Social Science & Medicine 64(11): 2248-2259. (CR)

Monday, March 31st: Transforming Gender

Wednesday, April 2nd: What Counts as Agency?

✓ **Assignment 3E: Interview Analysis**

❖ **Thursday, April 3rd: Film, The Vertical Ray of the Sun**

Friday, April 4th: No-Class Association for Asian Studies Meetings

Week 14: Global Economy, WTO, IMF

For this week, please read:

- Newspaper articles on Clinton in Vietnam, Vietnam's WTO Application, Phan Van Khai in America, Bush in Vietnam. (CR)
- Tran, Angie Ngoc (2007). "The Third Sleeve: Emerging Labor Newspapers and the Response of the Labor Unions and the State to Workers' Resistance in Vietnam." *Labor Studies Journal* 32(3): 257-279. (CR)
- Davis, Mike (2004). "Planet of Slums." *New Left Review* 26(MAR APR 2004): 5-34. (CR)

Monday, April 7th: Integrating with the World Economy

Wednesday, April 9th: The double-edge of development

✓ **Assignment 3F: Annotated Bibliography**

Friday, April 11th: Debating the WTO and IMF

✓ **Assignment 3G: Outline of Essay 3**

Week 15: Artistic Visions of Social Change

For this week, please read:

- Nguyen Huy Thiep, "The General Retires" (CR)
- The website of the Vietnam Literature Project (<http://www.vietnamlit.org/>)
- The Website of Sàn Art in Ho Chi Minh City (<http://www.san-art.org/>)

Monday, April 14th: Art

✓ **Assignment 3H: 1st Draft of Essay 3**

✓ **Assignment 3I: In-class peer-review of Essay 3**

Wednesday, April 16th: Music

Friday, April 18th: Literature

Week 16: Course Conclusion

For this week, please read:

- Your Final Paper

Monday, April 21st: Peer-review of final paper drafts.

✓ **Assignment 3J: 2nd Draft of Essay 3**

Wednesday, April 23rd: Last Day of Class

✓ **Project 3 Final Draft due in class and on Blackboard.**