

**Course Syllabus**  
**Chaminade University of Honolulu**

**HI/POL 341: Vietnam & United States**  
**Dr. Yamasaki**

**Course Description**

Although the Vietnam War ended over twenty years ago, questions about it continue to haunt the Vietnamese and American peoples. What, for example, did the United States hope to accomplish in Vietnam? What enabled a poorly armed and economically struggling people to thwart the efforts of the richest and most powerful nation in the world? This course addresses these questions by examining (1) the histories of the Vietnamese and American peoples, (2) how and why the United States became involved in Vietnam, (3) course of the Vietnam conflict, (4) views of the conflict by its participants, (5) the antiwar movement, and (6) depictions of the conflict in literature, film and music.

**Course Objectives**

- Gain a working knowledge of the key people, events and developments of the era.
- Refine writing, speaking and cognitive skills through essays, simulations and symposia.
- Encourage learning embodying cooperation, self-discipline, caring and mutual respect.
- Promote concern for social justice, ethics and civic responsibility.

**Course Requirements**

- Regularly attend and actively participate in class meetings. Turn in short writing assignments.
- Take a mid-term and a final examination.
- Turn in a book review and a film review.
- Turn in assignments on time. All assignments are to be turned in to the instructor, in class, during the class hour, on the day they are due. Papers turned in to the instructor's mailbox or under his office door will not be accepted. For short writing assignments, no late papers will be accepted. For the book review and the film review, 5 points will be deducted for each class meeting beyond the due date.

**Grades**

Class participation and short writing assignments	100 points
Mid-term examination	100 points
Final examination	100 points
Book review	100 points
Film review	100 points

460-500 points = A; 410-459 = B; 350-409 = C; 300-349 = D; Below 300 = F.

## Course Outline

- Week 1-2: History of the Vietnamese people  
French occupation & struggle for independence
- Week 3: United States as a world power & its involvement in the Cold War
- Week 4-8: How the United States became involved in Vietnam
- Week 6: **Book review due**
- Week 8: **Mid-term examination**
- Week 9-10: Course of the Vietnam conflict
- Week 11-12: Accounts of those involved in the conflict
- Week 12: **Film review due**
- Week 13: Anti-Vietnam War movement in the United States
- Week 14-15: Depictions of the Vietnam conflict in literature, films and songs
- Week 16: **Final examination**

## Text

Hess, *Vietnam and the United States*

Yamasaki, *History/Political Science 341: Vietnam & United States*

## Office Hours

Eiben Annex: 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-3:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Phone: 735-4824