

## Vietnam and the United States, 1945-1975

Political Science 341<sup>70</sup> - Chaminade University (cross listed History and Political Science)

Meetings: Every Saturday, 9:00am-1:10pm

Text: *Vietnam and the United States* by Gary R. Hess

What happened in the years 1945-75 between the United States and Vietnam is history. In order to learn from history we should also look at the forces in effect at that time which influenced the actions / decisions. No decision is made in a vacuum. External forces cause that action. Some are positive - some are not. History records. Political science analyzes. This semester we will view the era of our Vietnam involvement as a regional event, part of a whole continuum of events worldwide, shaping the decisions and actions of national leaders - and a part of the "Cold War".

I ask, for the next 10 weeks, that we focus on the conflict between the United States and Vietnam as part of the Cold War and a learning experience for the future.

**Facilitator:** Blair Craig. Instructor / education facilitator since 1970 at learning centers such as the U.S. Army, University of Hawaii and Chaminade University. Masters of Arts from the University of Hawaii.  
Telephone: Home 395-2003, office 586-4583  
Availability: Please call if you have questions or concerns on any course issues. I prefer that you call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Philosophy:** This is your course. You're paying for the opportunity to be exposed to something. I'm here to help you achieve that goal.

**Focus:** "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

**Required:** Each person will conduct research during the semester on a topic of interest to them, AND approved by the instructor. You will make two presentations during the course and submit a final paper. The final exam will be a regional situation involving Vietnam

**Grading:** Class participation 10%, Quizzes 10%, Presentations 25%, Paper 30%, Final Exam 25%

Grading Scale:	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	
	91-100	A=	Excellent performance.
	81-90	B=	Above average performance
	71-80	C=	Average performance. Accomplishes only the minimum requirements. Oral and written communication is at an acceptable level for an undergraduate student.
	65-70	D=	Meets minimally levels of performance.
	<65	F=	Does not meet the most minimal requirements of the course.

Your grade will be based on content, style, and format including such items as clarity of communication, sentence and paragraph construction, punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Students are graded on achievement, rather than effort. It is the responsibility of the student to come to class prepared to participate. All assignments must be turned in on the date due, and presentations on the date and time specified by the instructor. No late assignments will be accepted unless approved in advance by the instructor. If unable to complete the individual course work by the last day of the course, you, the student, may negotiate an "incomplete contract" before the end date of the course.

The University trusts that each student will maintain high standards of honesty and ethical behavior. All assignments submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be the student's own work. All assignments except those designated as "group" are meant to represent the effort of each individual student. Group projects and assignments should represent equal efforts by all group members.

**Attendance:** Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory.

**Absences:** If an absence is necessary, the student must contact and get the agreement of the faculty member. However, any work which is due from the student at that class period must be presented at the designated time - it is the students responsibility to live up to the obligation to the class.

**Please note: An absence will affect the student's grade.**

## WHERE WE'RE GOING - AND HOW WE'LL GET THERE

- Class 1 Course overview: philosophy, focus, requirements. What is the legitimate role of government? Pick a topic as your research topic. Then a video which brings the region into focus historically. (For next week, read ch.1,2 and 3)
- Class 2 Establish a common ground: terms and definitions. Political philosophy: communism vs. capitalism. The impact of WW II (1945-54). The "Cold War". (Have read ch. 1-3).
- Class 3 Political Leaders -- The reality of fear / Communism. The "domino theory" and the "quicksand of Asia". Examine 1954-64. (Have read ch.4) (QUIZ)
- Class 4 Escalation. Presidential War Powers. The Johnson era. Examine 1964-68. (Have read Ch. 5)
- Class 5 **Presentation #1**
- Class 6 **Nixon years: Kissinger, negotiations and linkage. The War at Home. Kent State. Conscious of America.** (Have read ch.6). (QUIZ)
- Class 7 Vietnam -- why do we care. (Have read Ch.7 and epilogue)
- Class 8 **Presentation #2. (Papers are due today).**
- Class 9 **Presentation #2 completion. Closing Issues**
- Class 10 **Final Exam - you may bring any course material.**

