

AMH 3544

America in Vietnam

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Required Reading: (note: all books are available at Goering's Bookstore (next to Bageland), 1717 N.W. 1st Ave.; 377-3703

Robert J. McMahon, Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War: Documents and Essays (3rd rev. ed., 2002)

Robert D. Schulzinger, A Time for War: The United States and Vietnam, 1941-1975 (1997)

Tim O'Brien, If I Die in a Combat Zone (1979)

Bao Ninh, Sorrow of War (1991)

Melvin Small, Antiwarriors: The Vietnam War and the Battle for America's Hearts and Minds (2002)

Course Requirements:

There will be a mid-term exam, scheduled for Tuesday, Oct.7; and a final exam in this classroom at the regularly scheduled time: December 18, period C (12:30-2:30 p.m.).

In addition, there is a paper assignment of 5-7 double-spaced pages. It will require you to provide a critical, comparative analysis of the novels by O'Brien and Ninh. You will be expected to examine those important fictionalized accounts for the insights they can offer about the nature of the war and the impact it had on those ordinary soldiers--on both sides--who found themselves caught up in it.

More information on the paper assignment will be given in class.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments:

1. Week of August 26 -- Introduction to course
reading: McMahon, ch. 1
2. Week of September 2 -- Vietnam: Early History, the French Colonial Era, and the Development of a Nationalist Movement
reading: McMahon, ch. 2; Schulzinger, ch. 1
3. Week of September 9 -- Roots of the American Commitment
reading: McMahon, ch. 3; Schulzinger, ch. 2

4. Week of September 16 -- Eisenhower and Vietnam: Deepening the Commitment
reading: McMahon, ch. 4; Schulzinger, chs. 3-4
5. Week of September 23 -- Kennedy and Vietnam: Incremental Escalation
reading: McMahon, ch. 5; Schulzinger, ch. 5
6. Week of September 30 -- Johnson's Decisions for War
reading: McMahon, ch. 6; Schulzinger, chs. 6-7
7. Week of October 7 -- U.S. and Vietnamese Military Strategies
reading: McMahon, ch. 7; Schulzinger, ch. 8
8. Week of October 14 -- Americans in Combat
reading: McMahon, ch. 8; O'Brien, If I Die in a Combat Zone
9. Week of October 21 -- The Enemy: North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front
reading: McMahon, ch. 9; Bao Ninh, Sorrow of War
10. Week of October 28 -- The Tet Offensive of 1968
reading: McMahon, ch. 10; Schulzinger, chs. 9-10
11. Week of November 4 -- The Ally: The Republic of (South) Vietnam
reading: McMahon, ch. 11; Bao Ninh, Sorrow of War
12. Week of November 11 -- Nixon's Strategy for Withdrawal
reading: McMahon, ch. 12; Schulzinger, ch. 11
13. Week of November 18 -- The Antiwar Movement and Public Opinion
reading: McMahon, ch. 13; Small, Antiwarriors
14. Week of November 25 -- The Paris Peace Accords of 1973 and the Fall of South Vietnam
reading: McMahon, ch. 14; Schulzinger, ch. 12 and conclusion
15. Week of December 2 -- Consequences and Lessons of a War
reading: McMahon, ch. 15
16. Week of December 9 -- review

Grading: The mid-term exam and the paper will each count approximately 30% each toward the final grade. The comparative paper on the O'Brien and Ninh books will count the remaining 40%. Regular and effective participation in class discussions may, in some cases, boost a student's grade.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is, of course, expected of all

students. Any effort to hand in another's work as one's own, including copying without attribution from published reviews or internet sources will, if discovered, result in a grade of 0 for the assignment and may also result in a failing grade for the course.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected, as is a reasonable effort to make it to class on time. Excessive absences may result in a student being dropped from the course.

Note: If you are a history major or minor, and wish to receive important announcements on courses, scholarships, and awards at your e-mail address, please sign on to the History Department listserv. Send an e-mail message to: <majordomo@clas.ufl.edu> and in the text of the message type the following: subscribe hist-ba@history.ufl.edu.