

COURSE SYLLABUS
HISTORY 361.01 CID # 3498
THE VIETNAM WAR
SPRING 2008

Location: AB4 202

Class Meeting: TTH, 12:30 p.m.

Instructor: James S. Olson

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Instructor Office Hours: MW, 8-12; T, 8-9:30 and 1-2. [mailto:\(stdclg12@shsu.edu\)](mailto:stdclg12@shsu.edu)

Course Description

The course will focus on the history of the Vietnam War, always within the context of the interplay between international relations and domestic politics.

Instructor Objectives

1. To assist students in gaining factual knowledge about the Vietnam War.
2. To assist students in learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories relevant to United States foreign policy and military history since 1940.
3. To assist students in improving their writing.

Course Objectives for Students

1. To learn, to understand, and to be able to explain the origins of the Vietnam War and the policies used to fight it.
2. To learn and to understand the controversies and different opinions today surrounding the origins of the Vietnam War.
3. To learn and to understand the long-term consequences of the Vietnam War on U.S. Foreign policy.

Required Texts and Supplies

Students will need a copy of books by Randy Roberts and James S. Olson:

1. *Where the Domino Fell: American and Vietnam*. New York: Blackwell, 2008. Fifth revised edition.
2. *My Lai: A History in Documents*. New York: Bedford Books. 1996.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required. Students who attend class regularly are far more likely to succeed in the course than students with frequent absences. Students will punish themselves by missing class frequently because their ability to do well on exams will be compromised. Students should also realize, however, that final grades will be based exclusively on examination performance, not on attendance.

Dropping the Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop a course. Students who decide to drop the course should do so by following the regulations of the Registrar's Office. The final day to drop

the course without a grade of Q and full tuition refund is January 18, 2008. The last day to drop the course or resign from school is May 8, 2008.

Course Schedule

The schedule of reading assignments and examinations is fluid depending upon the evolution of the course during the semester. Reading assignments and examination dates will be announced in class. Examination dates will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

Examinations

Examinations will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. The ratio of lecture/readings questions will be approximately 60/40, with 60 percent of questions coming from reading assignments and 40 percent from class lectures. Each examination will be worth a maximum of 100 points. Students will take four examinations during the semester, for a maximum total of 400 points. All missed examinations will be made up on the last regularly scheduled Thursday of the semester. Make-up examinations, except those missed for observance of a religious holy day, will be **far** more difficult than regularly-scheduled examinations because the absent student will have had more time than other students to prepare. Students missing an examination for observance of a religious holiday must take a make-up examination no later than 72 hours after the holy day. The final examination will cover only the last quarter of the course.

Students should purchase their books as soon as possible. Bookstores often begin returning un-purchased textbooks to the publishers within three weeks of the beginning of the semester. Students who fail to purchase their textbooks in a timely manner will be given no special consideration if they are unable to secure a textbook before examinations. In other words, do not come to Professor Olson with the excuse, "I can't find the textbook." It is the student's responsibility to acquire the books during the first week of the semester.

Students who fully complete relevant workbook chapters *before* a scheduled examination will automatically receive 5 extra points on their examination score. The workbooks will be checked *only* during the last class session before an examination.

Grading Plan

Students will earn up to a maximum of 400 points through four examinations. The examinations will consist of multiple-choice, identification, short essay, and essay questions. Students will also earn up to 100 points for writing assignments, including a research paper on the My Lai massacre. The research paper will be graded for content, analysis, and grammar.

At the conclusion of the course, students with 360 points or above will receive an A; students with 320-359 points will receive a B; students with 280 to 319 points will receive a C; students with 240 to 279 points will receive a D; all students with fewer than 240 points will receive an F.

Extra Credit

There are no options for extra credit.

Learning Disabilities

Federal law requires that students with handicaps, including learning disabilities, receive reasonable accommodations to assist them in completing course requirements. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason

of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically-related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling 926-294-1720. As a man with a physical disability and a modest learning disorder, I'm happy to provide any reasonable assistance. Learning-disabled students must have the disability certified by the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Students should also realize that laziness is not a learning disability.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience, both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary action against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. In History 164.04, Spring 2004, academic dishonesty consists primarily of copying another student's work and claiming it as your own or employing any type of written, audio, or video material during an exam to assist in answering questions. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will immediately receive a grade of F for the entire course.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off and stowed away before class begins. For each instance in which a student's cell phone rings in class or is even visible to the instructor or to another student, twenty points will be deducted from the offending student's cumulative grade total. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in some other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

In History 164, Section 04, Fall 2004, students engaging in disruptive behavior will have points subtracted from their final grade total. When a disruption occurs, it will be noted. The student will then receive a warning. With the second breach of the code of conduct, and for each subsequent breach, twenty points will be deducted from a student's cumulative point total. It should be obvious, therefore, that a continuing pattern of irresponsible behavior will have a severe impact on a student's final grade.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. Their attendance must not disrupt the class. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor may attend.