Orientation: Encounters
Loyola University Chicago – Vietnam Center
Autumn 2017

Course Objectives:
1. To link classroom learning with the everyday experiences that each student will encounter.
2. To challenge students to recognize and interrogate their own biases and preconceived notions about Vietnam, its peoples, and its cultures.
3. To introduce students to basic coping skills for their time in Vietnam.
4. To help students to decode everyday engagements and interactions

1. Introduction – August 31, 2017
   a. Get to know you session – establishing basic lines of communication with students
   b. Vietnam essentials
   c. Walk and lunch at 30/4 Café (1 Huyền Trần Công Chúa, District 1)

2. The Mekong Delta (Pre-departure) – September 7, 2017
   a. Brief history of the Delta
   b. State of the Delta today
   c. Readings:
      ii. David Biggs, Quagmire: Nation-Building and Nature in the Mekong Delta (Selections)

   a. National Identity and Vietnam [What does it mean to be Vietnam?]
   b. Scavenger Hunt – Finding your way
   c. Readings:
      i. Selections from: Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities (Selections)
      ii. Christopher Goscha, The Penguin History of Modern Vietnam (Selections)

   a. Alternate identities
   b. Notions of authenticity
   c. Walking tour – District 5
   d. Readings:
      i. Christopher Goscha, The Penguin History of Modern Vietnam (Selections)

5. Central and Northern Vietnam (Pre-departure) – September 27, 2017
   a. What is the importance of Huế? Hanoi?
b. Who is Hồ Chí Minh?
c. Readings
   i. Christopher Goscha, *The Penguin History of Modern Vietnam* (Selections)
   ii. Lê Minh Khüê, “A Small Tragedy”
6. **No Class** – October 5, 2017
7. **Education and Service in Vietnam** (Part I) – October 12, 2017
   a. How does Vietnamese education differ from American education?
   b. What are Vietnamese notions of service?
   c. Brief history of education in Vietnam
   d. Current state of education
8. **Education and Service in Vietnam** (Part II) – October 19, 2017
9. **Cambodia** (Pre-departure)– October 24, 2017
   a. A Brief History of Cambodia
   b. What is Angkor Wat?
   c. Who was Pol Pot?
   d. Readings:
      i. Philip Short, *Pol Pot: Anatomy of a Nightmare* (Selections)
10. **‘The Vietnam War’...** – November 2, 2017
    a. What was the Vietnam War?
    b. When did it begin? Why?
    c. What are the Củ Chi Tunnels?
    d. Readings
       i. Mark Philip Bradley, *Vietnam At War* (Selections)
       ii. Proposed Film:
11. **... And Its Depictions** – November 9, 2017
    a. How has ‘the War’ been portrayed in Vietnam?
    b. Readings/Film/Sites
       i. Dương Thu Hương, *The Novel Without A Name*
       ii. War Remnants Museum, 28 Võ Văn Tần Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City
       iii. Binh An Cemetery, Bình Dương Province
       iv. *Em Bé Hà Nội* [The Girl From Hanoi], Hải Ninh (Director), 1974
12. **Scavenger Hunt** - November 16, 2017
13. **No Class** – Thanksgiving, November 23, 2017
    a. Vietnam Today
    b. Challenges for the future
    c. Readings
       i. Bill Hayton, *Vietnam: Rising Dragon* (Selections)
       ii. Huy Đức, Bên Thắng Cuộc [The Winning Side] (Selections)
15. **Wrap-up** – December 7, 2017
Required Readings

Proposed Guest Lecturers
3. Nguyễn Văn Du – Former chief of Tây Ninh Province Television and 35-year Communist Party member. Talk: Growing up a boy of the NLF. (Saigon)
4. Phạm Xuân Nguyên – one of Vietnam’s most well-known literary critics. Talk: Literature and Đổ Đi Mới. (Hanoi)
5. Nguyễn Quí Đức – Vietnamese-American owner of Tadioto Café, author, and former editor and voice of KQED’s award winning program “Pacific Time.” Talk: Returning to Vietnam. (Hanoi)

Proposed Films – Evening Viewings
1. Em bé Hà Nội [The Girl From Hanoi], Hải Ninh (Director), 1974.
2. Bao giờ cho đến tháng mười [When the Tenth Month Comes], Đặng Nhật Minh (Director), 1984.