Seminar: Encounters
Loyola University Chicago – Vietnam Center
Spring 2019
UNIV 103 VO1 S19

Instructor Information
Name: Jason A Picard
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Class Meetings: Thursday (10-12)
Office Hours: By Appointment

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.
5. To tackle “big questions” and “big ideas”.

Requirements:
1. Attend and participate in each class meeting
2. Complete readings before each class meeting
3. Keep weekly journal. To be turned in by 8 pm the Wednesday before class

Grading:
Course is Pass/Fail

Course Schedule
1. Introduction – January 17, 2019
   a. Get to know you session – establishing basic lines of communication with students
   b. Vietnam essentials – The classroom in Vietnam

   a. What was the “Vietnam War”? When did it begin?
   b. What are the Củ Chi Tunnels?
   c. Reading Idea:
3. **District 5 Walking Tour** – January 31, 2019
   a. Getting to know your new home
   b. Why is Saigon called Saigon?
   c. Reading Ideas:

4. **Tết Holiday** (No Class) – February 7, 2019

5. **District 1 Scavenger Hunt** – February 14, 2019
   a. Students will work in teams of four
   b. This activity is intended to challenge your comfort navigating District 1
   c. Among other things, you will locate:
      i. The oldest existing vegetarian restaurant in Saigon
      ii. Vietnam’s first locally-made gourmet chocolate
      iii. Street-sold tofu dessert

6. **Cambodia** – February 21, 2019
   a. A Brief History of Cambodia
   b. What is Angkor Wat?
   c. Who was Pol Pot?
   d. Reading Ideas:

7. **Colonial Legacies in Saigon** – February 28, 2019
   a. Visit “From Norodom Palace to Independence Palace, 1868-1966” Exhibit
   b. How can architecture tell us about history?
   c. Reading Idea:
      i. George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant”

8. **Hồ Chí Minh** – March 7, 2019
   a. What is Communism?
   b. Who was Hồ Chí Minh?
   c. Was he a Communist? A Nationalist?
   d. Reading Idea:

9. **The Party and the State** – March 14, 2019
   a. What is the significance of the Communist Party?
   b. How does the State function in Vietnam?
   c. Where is Vietnam going?
d. Reading Ideas:

10. **Central and Northern Vietnam** (Pre-departure) – March 21, 2019
   a. What is the importance of Huế?
   b. What about the significance of Hội An?
   c. Reading Idea:

11. **Hanoi** – March 26-27, 2019
   a. What is Hanoi?
   b. Who was Hồ Chí Minh?
   c. Reading Ideas:

12. **Fulbright University** – April 4, 2019
   a. What is it?
   b. What is the school’s significance?
   c. What challenges does the endeavor face?
      i. Reading ideas:
         1. Mark Ashwill, *The Fat Lady Finally Sings: Bob Kerrey Quietly Resigns from Fulbright University…,* May 26, 2017

13. **The Mekong Delta** (Pre-departure) – April 11, 2019
   a. Brief history of the Delta
   b. State of the Delta today
   c. Reading Ideas:
14. **Wrap-up** – April 18, 2019
   a. Your thoughts about the semester
   b. How have your perceptions about Vietnam/Southeast Asia changed over the course of the semester?
   c. What are you taking away from the experience?
   d. Applying your experience after you leave Vietnam.

**Reading Ideas**

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