



VIETNAM  
CENTER

***Seminar: Orientation to Living Abroad***

Loyola University Chicago – Vietnam Center

Fall 2019

UNIV 103 VO1 F19

*Instructor Information*

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Class Meetings: Thursdays (10am-12:30pm)

Office Hours: By Appointment

*Course Objectives:*

1. To help students understand, process, and reflect on their experiences with the Vietnam Center program.
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 provide context for experiences during academic excursions and important logistic information.
6. To generate direct feedback lines between LVC students and staff.

*Requirements:*

1. Attend and participate in each class meeting
2. Submit reflection assignments (approx. 200 words). To be submitted via Sakai by 12 pm the Wednesday before class

*Grading:*

Course is Pass/Fail

*Course Schedule:*

1. Introduction to UNIV and Cu Chi Tunnels – 29 August 2019
  - a. Understanding course objectives and structure
  - b. Cu Chi Tunnels introduction and trip logistics



- c. **Reflection Topic:** How have your first days in Saigon been? What have been the most positive elements of your transition to Vietnam? What have been the most challenging? (due Tuesday, 3 September)
2. *Coping With Life in Vietnam* – 12 September 2019
  - a. Dealing with tough situations in Saigon
  - b. Mental Health Resources in Saigon- Dr. Miguel Seixas from Family Medical Practice
  - c. D1 Scavenger Hunt
  - d. **Reflection Topic:** What challenges do you anticipate dealing with while you are abroad? What coping skills have you developed or do you hope to develop this semester?
3. *Chris's Session* – 26 September 2019
  - a. TBD
  - b. Mekong Delta Excursion Pre-Departure Logistics
  - c. **Reflection Topic:** TBD
4. *Understanding Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh* – 10 October 2019
  - a. Lecture on Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh with discussion- Dr. Jason Picard
  - b. **Reflection Topic:** What have you learned from the BK-Loyola Partners or other Vietnamese individuals about Vietnam's history, culture, or politics that has surprised you?
5. *Mid-term Feedback Meeting and N/C PDO* – 17 October 2019
  - a. Academic and Student Life Feedback Meeting
  - b. North/Central Excursion Pre-Departure Logistics
  - c. **Reflection Topic:** What elements of the academic and student life aspects for the Vietnam Center have been most positive to you and what needs to be more improved? Please be specific!
6. *Understanding Cambodia and PDO* – 7 November 2019
  - a. History and Politics Lecture of the Kingdom of Cambodia- Dr. Jason Picard
  - b. Cambodia Excursion Pre-Departure Logistics
  - c. **Reflection Topic:** What have you learned about the Khmer Rouge before coming to Vietnam? The UN does not consider the Khmer Rouge's reign to be considered genocide. Why do you think that is? Who benefits from keeping that designation off this tragedy?
7. *Returning Home* – 28 November 2019
  - a. Dealing with reverse culture shock
  - b. Making your study abroad experience marketable



- c. **Reflection Topic:** How have you changed this semester? What have you learned or what skills have you developed this semester? How will you talk to people back home about your time studying abroad?

*Lunch Groups:*

Each student will sign up for a lunch group meeting with food provided by Loyola Vietnam Center. Time will be 11:30am on these Thursdays and locations will be TBD. Sign-ups will begin during the first UNIV 103 meeting.

1. Group A                    5 September 2019
2. Group B                    19 September 2019
3. Group C                    10 October 2019
4. Group D                    31 October 2019
5. Group E                    21 November 2019

*Additional Suggested Resources from Dr. Jason Picard:*

Reading Ideas

1. David Biggs, *Quagmire: Nation-Building and Nature in the Mekong Delta* (Seattle: University of Washington, 2011).
2. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, (New York: Verso, 1996, Seventh Edition).
3. Christopher Goscha, *The Penguin History of Modern Vietnam* (New York: Penguin, 2016).
4. Lê Minh Khuê, "A Small Tragedy," in *The Stars, The Earth, The River* (Curbstone Books, 1997).
5. Mark Philip Bradley, *Vietnam At War* (New York: Oxford University, 2009).
6. Erik Harms, *Luxury and Rubble: Civility and Dispossession in the New Saigon* (Berkeley: University of California, 2016)
7. Bill Hayton, *Vietnam: Rising Dragon* (New Haven: Yale University, 2010).

Possible Films

1. *Em bé Hà Nội* [The Girl From Hanoi], Hải Ninh (Director), 1974.
2. *Apocalypse Now*, Francis Ford Coppola, 1979.
3. *Bao giờ cho đến tháng mười* [When the Tenth Month Comes], Đặng Nhật Minh, 1984.
4. *The Killing Fields*, Roland Joffé, 1984.
5. *Platoon*, Oliver Stone, 1986.
6. *Chuyện tử tế* [The Story of Good Behavior], Trần Văn Thủy, 1987.
7. *Full Metal Jacket*, Stanley Kubrick, 1987.

8. *Indochine*, Regis Wargnier, 1992.
9. *Đời cát* [Sandy Lives], Nguyễn Thanh Vân, 2000.
10. *The Vietnam War*, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, 2017.
11. *First They Killed My Father*, Angelina Jolie, 2017.