Seminar: Orientation to Living Abroad
Loyola University Chicago – Vietnam Center
Fall 2019
UNIV 103 VO1 F19

Instructor Information
Name: Bryan Conover
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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**

**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.