HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: The Vietnam War: HIST 2580
CREDITS: 3 (3 Lec / 0 Lab)
PREREQUISITES: College-level reading ability is required.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The Vietnam War examines the Vietnam conflict as a divisive event in world history that had far-reaching repercussions for modern America and Southeast Asia. This course surveys America's involvement in Southeast Asia from the early 1900s to the present and the war's impact on America and Indochina since the 1940s.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

I. Clashing cultures
   A. Indochina and America: two different worlds
   B. The geography and peoples of Indochina
   C. A clash of cultures: Vietnamese and American culture

II. The colonial era
   A. Trouble on the horizon: the French come to Asia
   B. The civilizing mission: French colonialism in Indochina
   C. Village life under the French
   D. War comes to Indochina: World War II, 1939-1945
   E. America's appearance on the stage: the U.S. and Indochina, 1939-1945
   F. The rise of Ho Chi Minh

III. Revolution and independence
   A. The war against the French, 1946-1954
   B. America chooses a course: U.S.-Vietnamese relations, 1945-1954
   D. Building a nation: America and South Vietnam, 1954-1960

IV. The American commitment
   A. The New Frontier and Kennedy's Vietnam, 1961-1963
   B. America stays the course: Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam, 1963-1965
   C. The American buildup, 1965-1966

V. The war on the ground and in the air
   A. Search and destroy: the groundwar in South Vietnam, 1966-1967
F. The face of the Americans: the U.S. military at war
G. The face of our allies: the South Vietnamese and our allies at war
H. The face of the enemy: The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese at war

VI. The antiwar movement
A. The New Left and the antiwar movement, part I, 1964-1968: “Hell no, we won't go!!”
B. Guns and butter: the draft, the economy, and Lyndon Johnson's Great Society
C. The media and the war

VII. Tet and its aftermath
A. Tet, 1968
B. Of presidents and politics: the 1968 election and the war
D. A widening war: Laos and Cambodia, 1968-1970

VIII. Negotiations and peace
D. After "peace": the fall of South Vietnam, 1973-1975

IX. The war's aftermath: Indochina, 1975-present
A. The killing fields: Cambodia, 1975-present
B. Laos: The fate of the Lao and Hmong
C. One Vietnam: socialist unity, 1975-present
D. Indochina today

X. The war's aftermath: America, 1975-present
A. America charts a course: Indochinese-American relations, 1975-present
B. The MIA/POW issue
C. Agent Orange
D. Veterans' lives
E. The legacies of war

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
Students will
1. identify the major physical, topographic, and climate features of Indochina and place the major ethnic and linguistic groups on a map of Indochina.
2. describe the key elements of Indochinese culture before colonialism's impact.
3. explain the role of Buddhism and Confucianism in Indochinese society.
4. explain the political, economic, religious, and social impact of French colonialism.
5. explain the history of Vietnamese nationalism and resistance to foreign
rule.

6. describe World War II's impact on Indochina.
7. explain how the Vietnamese nationalists won their independence in the First Indochinese War (1946-1954).
8. explain how Ho Chi Minh and Ngo Dinh Diem attempted to build nations in North and South Vietnam during the 1950s.
9. identify the key steps that Americans took to become involved in Indochina from 1954 to 1964.
11. describe how the U.S. fought the ground and air war in South and North Vietnam from 1965 to 1973.
12. explain the appeal the National Liberation Front (NLF) had for many South Vietnamese.
13. explain how Richard Nixon's strategy of Vietnamization worked in Indochina.
14. describe why the antiwar movement in the United States attracted such widespread popular support.
15. explain the negotiating positions that the U.S., South Vietnamese, North Vietnamese, and NLF took at the Paris peace talks.
16. describe the aftermath of the war in Indochina and how political, economic, and social life changed after 1975.
17. describe the war's impact on the U.S. and its legacies for the United States.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Global Perspective

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Communicating Clearly & Effectively
Thinking Creatively and Critically

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate in class discussions, and complete all assigned work. Students can expect to complete much of their assigned work outside of class.
STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: (SPECIAL FEES, DIRECTIVES ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, ETC.):

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