

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer Course     A.A. Degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:**            HIST 135 American Involvement in Vietnam, 1945-1975

**UNIT VALUE:**            3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:**            48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:**            Appropriate language skills.

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**            None

**PREREQUISITE:**            None

**COREQUISITE:**            None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:**            None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

Surveys the political decisions, and the rationales behind them, that led to and increased American presence in Vietnam; examines the domestic impact of the commitment to Vietnam; analyzes aspects of the popular culture that reflect various interpretations of the war; the effect of American involvement on the Vietnamese people and nation will be addressed, but the focus will be on the meaning of Vietnam for the American national experience.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The successful student will be able to:

1. identify the decisions made by the Truman-Nixon administrations that increased American involvement in Vietnam.
2. analyze the motivations, both domestic and foreign, that explain why the above decisions were made.
3. relate the impact of American involvement to domestic history, focusing on the critics and supporters of American presence in Vietnam.
4. examine the experiences of Vietnam veterans, particularly through panel discussions and guest speakers.
5. explain how the war, directed and fought overwhelmingly by men, affected American women who were directly touched by the conflict.
6. compare and contrast various representations of America's Vietnam experience as it has been portrayed in aspects of the American popular culture.

## **CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. A brief survey of the history of Vietnam up to 1945
- II. Decisions made by the Truman Administration (1945-53) as well as the reasons behind those decisions
- III. Decisions of the Eisenhower Administration (1953-61)
- IV. Decisions of the Kennedy Administration (1961-63)
- V. Decisions of the Johnson Administration (1963-69)
- VI. Decisions of the Nixon Administration (1969-74)
- VII. Communist take-over (1975) with a brief examination of Vietnam's history since then
- VIII. America in the '60s--domestic social movements as they related to U. S. involvement in Vietnam
- IX. Men and Women who served
- X. The MIAs and POWs--the history and continuing controversy
- XI. American involvement as portrayed in our popular culture, particularly television shows and Hollywood movies
- XII. Panel discussions with those touched by the Vietnam experience and some individual guest speakers
- XIII. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

## **REQUIRED READING:**

Mitchell, Jan. *The Last Stamp: Remembering Jimmy Mitchell, A Remarkable Young Man*. Self Published, 2002.

Olson, James S. and Randy Roberts. *Where the Domino Fell: America and Vietnam, 1945-1995*. St. James, New York: Brandywine Press, 1999.

Puller, Lewis B. Jr. *Fortunate Son: the Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller, Jr.* New York: Bantam, 1992.

Van Devanter, Linda. *Home Before Morning: the True Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam*. Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001.

## **SUGGESTED READING:**

.Auster, Albert and Leonard Quart. *How the War was Remembered: Hollywood and Vietnam*. New York: Praeger, 1988.

Bartz, Loren. *Backfire: A History of How American Culture Led Us Into Vietnam and Made Us Fight the Way We Did*. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1985.

Duiker, William J. *Ho Chi Minh*. New York: Hyperion, 2000.

Hayslip, Le Ly. *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace*. New York: Doubleday. 1989.

Hunt, Andrew E. *The Turning: A History of Vietnam Veterans Against the War*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.

Lamb, David. *Vietnam Now: A Reporter Returns*. New York: Public Affairs, 2002.

Rochester, Stuart I. and Frederick Kiley. *Honor Bound: American Prisoners of War in Southeast, 1961-1973*. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1999.

Scruggs, Jan and Joel L. Swerdlow. *To Heal A Nation: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial*. New York: Perennial Library, 1985.

Sheehan, Neil. *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*. New York: Random House, 1988.

Walker, Keith. *A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of Twenty-Six American Women Who Served in Vietnam*. New York: Ballentine Books, 1984.

### **REQUIRED WRITING:**

Examinations are essay in format, with each demanding a minimum 750 word response to one general question. Two exams are take-home tests emphasizing student analysis of course material and their reaction to the guest speakers/panel discussions. The final exam is an in-class test.

Additionally, for the first half of the semester students turn in weekly answers to study questions drawn from text assignments.

Two formal papers are also required. One, on the Puller and Van Devanter autobiographies, is 1,500 - 2,000 words in length and the other, on the Mitchell book, is 250 - 500 words.

### **OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.**

Reading of the required texts and completion of related study question assignments; take home exams for the first two tests; the two formal papers.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

Lecture format is primary; some video tapes will be used. Three class sessions will focus on panel discussions by various participants from the Vietnam era with students posing questions to these individuals. Additionally, on a few evenings some guest speakers will visit the classroom.

### **Check all that apply:**

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

### **DISTANCE LEARNING:**

**This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes \_\_\_ No X

**If yes, check all that apply:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- \_\_\_\_\_ One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Study Questions on Olson & Roberts Text	= 44%
Papers on Puller & Van Devanter books,	
On the Mitchell book	= 28%
Examinations	= 28%
	_____
	100%

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes \_\_\_ No x Number of times course may be taken for credit: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:** Linda Dudik

**SIGNATURES ON FILE**