

COURSE: History 235 "The Vietnam War Era" (*Fall/Winter*)
Instructor: Samuel Plaza
Class Hours: ONLINE
Office Hours: Make arrangements with instructor
Telephone: (734) 642-6843 (cell) OR (313) 845-6425
E-mail: sjplaza@hfcc.edu

TEXT/DVD MATERIALS:

Robert J. McMahon, Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War, Fourth Edition, Houghton-Mifflin, 2008, ISBN # 10-0-618-74937-3

George Donelson Moss, Vietnam: An American Ordeal, Fifth Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006, ISBN # 0-13-192588-1

Bill Laurie and R. J. Del Vecchio, Whitewash/Blackwash: Myths of the Viet Nam War, Third Edition, 2006, ISBN # 0-9623992-5-6

Jeremiah Denton with Ed Brandt, When Hell Was in Session, Traditional Press, 1982, ISBN # 0-935280-00-6

The Hanoi Hilton, Warner Home Video, 1987, DVD or VHS Cassette

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Grading Scale: A – E scale

Catalog Description: HIST 235 examines the factors that led to the American involvement in Vietnam, the war itself, and the legacy of that conflict.

MAJOR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of time and chronology in Modern American History;
2. Identify, summarize, and analyze major historical elements in modern American History;
3. Analyze cause and effect in Modern American History;
4. Trace elements of change and continuity in Modern American History;
5. Describe impact of events and personalities in Modern American History upon today.
6. Trace the elements of change and continuity in Modern American history.*

**This learning objective addresses the Critical Thinking General Education Outcomes.*

ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Examinations

The HIST 235 Final Examination will be given during Week #16. It will consist of one Critical Essay question and your participation in a Discussion Board. Specific directions will be found within the Week #16 packet.

HIST 235 Project

The HIST 235 Project will take place during Weeks 9, 10, and 11. All assigned readings will be found in the text *When Hell Was in Session*, a real life account of the imprisonment of U.S. Navy pilot Jeremiah Denton in Hanoi, North Vietnam, from 1965 to 1973. You will also be required to either rent or purchase the DVD/VHS cassette titled *The Hanoi Hilton*. The HIST 235 Project will consist of a series of essays that you will submit and discussion boards that you will participate in over the course of these three weeks. Specific directions will be found within the packets for Weeks 9, 10, and 11.

Critical Thinking Exercises

During some weeks you will be required to write and submit an essay in which you will demonstrate your understanding of the main ideas of a particular topic. The length of the essay should be about 350 to 450 words. You must rely only upon the course texts from which to write your essay – do not conduct research outside of the readings for the week. You should cite specific passages in your readings in order to support important points in your essay. Text citations should be no longer than one full sentence from any course text; for example, “America fought in the Vietnam War for several years.” (McMahon, 176). In this example you will note that only one sentence has been quoted. The sentence is set off by quotation marks at the beginning and at the end of the sentence, and in parenthesis is the author of the quoted text and the page from which the quote was taken. Do not cite more than three passages in an essay. Each Critical Thinking Essay must be completed and properly submitted via the UCompass system no later than seven (7) days after that week’s packet of work has been opened. After that time the packet will be closed and no work can be submitted by any student.

Discussion Boards

During some weeks you will be required to submit a Discussion Board exercise. DB topics are designed to make you take a specific position and defend it on the topic for that week. Your DB grade is composed of two parts, a post and a series of responses. The “post” is your answer to the DB question. It should be constructed in the same fashion as the Critical Thinking Essay is: use the course texts only, and cite specific passages to support your position. The length may be slightly shorter: about 250 to 300 words. You can only submit the post one time – there are no second opportunities. The maximum grade your post may earn is 5 points. The second part of the DB grade is the responses you make to the posts and responses of your classmates. Each response will be graded upon the quality of the response and the number of quality responses made for that week. You do not need to cite text passages in your responses. The maximum amount to be earned from your responses is 5 points. If you do not earn that amount, you may submit additional responses within that particular week to try to generate the extra score. As with the Critical Thinking Essays, all DB work must be properly submitted within that particular week of work. After that week is over, that packet will be closed to the entire class and no work can be submitted via UCompass.

Grading

A+	98 – 100%	274 - 280 points
A	93 – 97%	260 – 273 points
A-	90 – 92%	252 – 259 points
B+	88 – 89%	246 – 251 points
B	83 – 87%	232 – 245 points
B-	80 – 82%	224 – 231 points
C+	78 – 79%	218 – 223 points
C	73 – 77%	204 – 217 points
C-	70 – 72%	196 – 203points
D+	68 – 69%	190 – 195 points
D	63 – 67%	176 – 189 points
D-	60 – 62%	168 – 175 points
E	59% or below	167 or fewer points

Weekly Topics

WEEK 1: “Roots of the American Commitment”

WEEK 2: “Deepening of the Commitment: the Eisenhower Years”

WEEK 3: “Raising the Stakes: The Kennedy Years”

WEEK 4: “Lyndon B. Johnson’s Decision for War”

WEEK 5: EXAM #1

WEEK 6: “Americans in Combat”

WEEK 7: “1968: The Year of the Monkey”

WEEK 8: “The Enemy: North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front”

WEEK 9: “The Antiwar Movement and Public Opinion”

WEEK 10: “When Hell Was in Session” (Part 1)

WEEK 11: “When Hell Was in Session” (Part 2)

WEEK 12: The Vietnam War Media Project: “The Hanoi Hilton”

WEEK 13: “A War to End a War”

WEEK 14: “The End of the Tunnel”

WEEK 15: “Whitewash/Blackwash: Myths of the Vietnam War”

WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM: “Legacies and Memories of a War”

ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to log onto the UCompass system to access HIST 235 several times each week in order to read class announcements, obtain assignments, and submit work. If you encounter a personal problem of such a magnitude that it may result in an extended absence from access to a computer, then it is YOUR responsibility to contact me as soon as possible in order to alert me to your particular situation.

Withdrawal/Drop Policy

Late schedule adjustments and late registrations must be completed according to the times and dates specified in the HFCC catalog. Students will NOT be allowed to remain in class unless their name appears on a current class roster, or they have initiated the registration process and can verify it by the proper HFCC paperwork.

Policy on Incomplete Grades

The HFCC Policy on "incompletes" states that "A student performing satisfactory work in a course may be granted an incomplete (I) at semester's conclusion if some part of his/her work remains unfinished." The History Department has agreed that most of a student's work must be completed and that the student must be passing the course to receive the incomplete (I) grade. Both the student and the instructor must agree to the date of completion of unfinished work and exactly what work needs to be done. A student must not be required to sit through the course again to make up the "I."

Academic Dishonesty Policy

HFCC considers academic dishonesty to be a serious offense. HFCC policy is that the determination of such an offense and the appropriate action needed to remediate that offense be left to the individual judgment of the instructor. The instructor may administer a penalty up to and including failure in the particular course. It is the professional obligation of the faculty to enforce academic integrity in their courses.

Academic dishonesty is any activity intended to improve a student's grade fraudulently.* It includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Unauthorized acquisition of tests or alteration of grades;
- B. Unauthorized use of notes, books, or other prohibited materials during an examination;
- C. Open cheating during an examination;
- D. Permitting another person to take a test in the student's place or receiving unauthorized credit assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
- E. Providing unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
- F. Revision of graded work in an attempt to receive additional credit fraudulently;
- G. Plagiarism or using another person's work without acknowledgment;
- H. Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly.

Instructors (or their designees) reserve the right to require students to provide picture identification for test-taking, graded papers or projects or other appropriate purposes. (Source: Minutes of College Organization Meeting of May, 2006).

If an instructor fails a student in a course for academic dishonesty, the instructor will immediately notify, in writing, the division/department head, the student, and the Registrar of the infraction, retaining copies of all notifications.

The Registrar will maintain a record of all such violations. If a student fails two classes as a result of academic dishonesty, he or she will be dismissed from the College for two academic years. In addition, a notation of the reason for academic dismissal will be placed on the student's transcript. The notation may be expunged at the discretion of the appropriate Vice-President/Dean if a student petitions for its removal after at least a two-year period has elapsed since the disciplinary action.

If a student believes that the accusation of academic dishonesty is false, he or she may appeal through the Student Complaint Policies and Procedures. If the appeal reaches the Student Complaint Board, the Board will only consider whether the charge of academic dishonesty is justified and will not set aside the charge or penalty given by the instructor unless the charge of academic dishonesty is set aside.

*Any action that violates the Student Conduct Policy: Due Process Procedure will also be subject to review under that policy.

Instructional Technology & Tech Buddies

If you require assistance accessing UCompass Educator courses, please contact Instructional Technology at 313-845-9663 or via e-mail at signorelli@hfcc.edu, kolin@hfcc.edu, or vbeaty@hfcc.edu. On-campus assistance is also available in the Student Center at the Tech Buddy Desk or within Instructional Technology, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Instructional Technology is located on the lower level of the Learning Technology Center (same building as Campus Safety), Room A-004.

Media Center

Located on the second floor of the Library, the Media Center is an open access computer lab where students can go to work on computer assignments, access the Internet, and/or check their e-mail. For more information, you may contact the Media Center at 313-845-6386. For more information regarding Library Services, you may phone 313-845-9606.

Assisted Learning Services

The Assisted Learning Services Program is designed to assist physically challenged, learning disabled, or academically disadvantaged students at Henry Ford Community College to overcome barriers to education through supportive services. In addition, the Assisted Learning Services Department also provides tutoring services to the general student population. Assisted Learning Services is located in the LRC (Learning Resources Center), north side (parking lot side), main level. For more information, you may contact the office at 313-845-9617 or for the hearing impaired 313-845-9804.

Learning Lab

Located on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center, the Learning Lab assists HFCC students with identifying and improving the skills needed for success in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Math. Although hours may slightly vary each semester, generally, the Learning Lab is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:40 p.m., on Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9:40 a.m. – 1:40 p.m. For more information, contact the Learning Lab at 313-845-9643.