

**Peoples and Cultures of Contemporary Vietnam
Metropolitan University Scholar's Experience (MUSE) Seminar
San Jose State University
Anthropology 13D
Fall 2007**

Meeting Time: TR 3:00-4:15 **Room:** CL 131
Instructor: Dr. Karen Fjelstad
Office: CLK 463
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:00; 4:00-5:00
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Library Liason: Bernice Redfern

Course Description

The past decade has witnessed a tremendous amount of change in Vietnamese culture and society. Since 1986, when the Vietnamese government instituted the renovation policy (*doi moi*), Vietnam has become a popular tourist destination, religious practices have flourished, and many Vietnamese-Americans have returned to visit their country of origin. This course will explore culture and society in Vietnam, focusing on recent social and cultural changes, and the relationships between Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans.

Introduction to MUSE

University-level study is different from what you experienced in high school. The Metropolitan University Scholar's Experience (MUSE) is designed to help make your transition into college a success by helping you develop the skills and attitude needed for the intellectual engagement and challenge of in-depth university-level study. Discovery, research, critical thinking, written work, attention to the rich cultural diversity of the campus, and active discussion will be key parts of this MUSE course. Enrollment in MUSE courses is limited to a small number of students because these courses are intended to be highly interactive and allow you to easily interact with your professor and fellow students. MUSE courses explore topics and issues from an interdisciplinary focus to show how interesting and important ideas can be viewed from different perspectives.

Peer Mentors

Katherine Casey has been assigned to work with you as the Peer Mentor. She can be reached at katherine.sjsu@gmail.com or at the Peer Mentor Center in Clark Hall 408-924-2198. Her office hours are: Monday/ Wednesday 9:45am- 11:00am, and Tues/ Thurs 11:30-1:30.

General Course Goals

1. Develop an understanding of the historical, cultural and environmental contexts of contemporary Vietnam (Class activities, research poster/paper, field trip).
2. Identify the dynamics of ethnicity, gender/sexuality, class, and regional variation in Vietnam (Class activities).
3. Characterize the affects of Renovation Policy on employment, family life, village life, leisure time, and religious belief and behavior (Class activities, film analysis).
4. Synthesize symbols of Vietnamese ethnic identity including culture heroes, food, clothing, festivals, and holidays (Research poster/paper, field trip, class activities).
5. Describe the emerging relationship of Vietnamese and Vietnamese-Americans and the affects of transnational relationships on both groups (Class activities, field trip, film analysis).

MUSE Goals

In addition to the course goals above, this class will also be focused on the MUSE goals.

6. To establish a strong foundation for becoming a university level student and scholar. [MUSE] (Research activities).
7. To become acclimated to both the intellectual and social activities of university life (MUSE workshops, library tutorials on Research and Academic Integrity)
8. To understand the learning process and your responsibility and role in it.
9. To know what it means to be a member of a metropolitan university community.

GE Area D1 Student Learning Goals

Students shall be able to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. Students will be able to:

- place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts (Class activities, research poster/paper, field trip).
- identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them (Class activities).
- evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues (Research exercises, class activities, poster/paper).
- recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals (Class activities, poster/paper).

Goals of the Anthropology Department

In addition to the GE area goals, this class will also meet the following goals of the anthropology department:

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of cultural anthropology
4. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

SKILLS

6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. Knowledge of the research methods of cultural anthropology
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES

10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

Academic Integrity Statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs)

Your own commitment to learning, as evidence by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at (<http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>).

Statement of Students with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Course Text and Materials

A course reader has been designed specifically for this course. It is available at Maple Press (481 E. San Carlos Street). In addition to the reader, we will use the following book:
 Duong, Uyen Nicole. 2005. *Daughters of the River Huong: A Vietnamese Royal Concubine and her Descendants*. Oakdan, Va: RavensYard Publishing.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Course assignments consist of (1) attending three MUSE workshops and writing 2-page reflective papers about the topic of the workshop (700 words each); (2) conducting two library tutorials and exams which proved you have successfully completed the tutorials; (3) a one page research proposal (350 words) with an annotated bibliography, 4) a four page paper (1400 words) and a poster presentation synthesizing research on a particular topic; 5) a three-page analysis of a film (1050 words); (6) an in-class midterm exam; and (7) an in-class final exam.

Grades for this course will be determined in the following way:

Three MUSE workshops with reflective papers (20 pts.each)	60 pts.
Two Library tutorials (20 pts. each)	40 pts.
Research proposal/annotated bibliography	50 pts.
Term paper	100 pts.
Film Analysis	50 pts.
Midterm exam	100 pts.
Final exam	100 pts.

TOTAL NUMBER OF POSSIBLE POINTS: 500

Once you are assigned a point total at the end of the semester, your letter grade for the course will be calculated according to the following table:

500-485	A+	399-385	C+
484-465	A	384-365	C
464-450	A-	364-350	C-
449-435	B+	349-335	D+
434-415	B	334-315	D
414-400	B-	Below 315	F

Penalty for Late Work: Late work will be accepted only if you have an adequate excuse. Even so, late work will be marked down by 10% each day that our class meets after the original due date.

Class Schedule

Week 1, Aug. 23

Introduction to the class

Katherine: Where is Maple Press and how we get our reader/ Icebreaker activity

Read: Scupin, "Introduction to Asia"

Week 2, Aug. 28-30

What is anthropology and what are anthropologists doing in Vietnam?

Katherine: Viet Bingo/ Learning Styles Worksheet

Read: Scupin, "Mainland Southeast Asia"

Week 3, Sept. 4-6 *Library tutorials completed by Thursday*

Methods of Anthropological Research

Do You Eat Hot Dogs (or Pho) for Breakfast?

Doing ethnographic research in Vietnam and the US

Katherine: Note taking exercises/ Stress management

Week 4, Sept. 11-13 *Muse Paper # 1 Due*

Introduction to Southeast Asia: Geography, Environment, and Ethnic Groups

Katherine: Film: Daughter from Da Nang

Read: Oscar Salemink, "One Country: Many Journeys" (Kendall 2003)

Frank Proschan, "Vietnam's Ethnic Mosaic" (Kendall 2003)

Week 5, Sept. 18-20

Katherine: Ethnocentrism and film analysis/ Brainstorm for paper topics

Katherine: Library Day Sept. 20

Read: Uyen Duong, Part One

Week 6, Sept. 25-27

Chinese in Vietnam/ The French influence

Read: Truong Buu Lam, "The Vietnamese Perception of Colonialism"

Uyen Duong, Parts Two and Three

Katherine: Essay Writing/ Time management

Week 7, Oct. 2-4 The American war and the Vietnamese Diaspora: The Impact on Contemporary Vietnam

Katherine: How to study for an exam

Read: Malarney, "The Fatherland Remembers Your Sacrifice" (2001)

Hue Tam Ho Tai: "Faces of Remembrance and Forgetting" (2001)

Andrew Lam, "My Vietnam, My America" (VN Forum 1993)

Uyen Duong: Parts Four and Five

Week 8, Oct. 9-11 *Midterm Exam on Wednesday*

Film: Thanh's War

Week 9, Oct. 16-18 **Film analysis due**

Renovation and Reconciliation

Katherine / Critique essays

Read: Rambo and Jamieson, "Upland Areas, Ethnic Minorities, and Development" (2003)

Hy Van Luong, "Wealth, Power and Inequality: Global Market, The State, and Local Sociocultural Dynamics" (2003)

Week 10, Oct. 23-25

Vietnam Tourism- **Research proposal due**

Film: My Hanoi

Read: Claire Burkett, "Scenes from the Sa Pa Market" (Kendall 2003)

L. Kennedy and M.R. Williams, "The Past Without the Pain: The Manufacture of Nostalgia in Vietnam's Tourism Industry" (2001)

Katherine: Notetaking exercises

Week 11, Oct. 30-Nov. 1

Food and clothing of Vietnam

Let's Eat Pho!

Katherine: Peer review of Muse paper

Read: Andrea Nguyen, "The Evolution of Pho" and "Notes from 2003 Hanoi Seminar on Pho" at www.vietworldkitchen.com

Week 12, Nov. 6-8 **MUSE paper #2 Due**

The Family, Gender and Sexuality

Katherine: Peer review of term paper

Read: Belanger and Hong, "Too Late to Marry: Failure, Fate or Fortune" (2002)
Gammeloft, "The Irony of Sexual Agency: Premarital Sex in Urban North Vietnam" (2002)

Week 13, Nov. 13-15 **Research paper/poster due**

Religion in Contemporary Vietnam

Katherine: Notetaking exercises

Read: Fitzgerald, "Buddhism" (2001)

Taylor, "Goddess of Freedom" (2003)

Week 14, Nov. 20 (Thanksgiving Nov.22)

Vietnam's Festivals and Holidays

Katherine: Penny gambling

Read: Shaun Malarney, "Weddings and Funerals in Contemporary Vietnam" (Kendall)

Nguyen Van Huy, "Tet Holidays: Ancestral Visits and Spring Journeys" (Kendall)

Nguyen Van Huy, "The Mid-Autumn Festival, Yesterday and Today" (Kendall)

Week 15, Nov. 27-29 *MUSE paper # 3 Due*

Vietnamese-Americans at work, school and play

Read: Khoi Luu, "A Heart of Sorrow: Exposing the Lighter Side of the Vietnamese American Experience" (1993)

Katherine: Discussion of central themes of Vietnamese cultures

Week 16, Dec. 4-6

Vietnamese-Americans and Vietnam

Katherine: Jeopardy game for final

Read: Chung Nguyen, "Power from the Heart: A Trip to Vietnam"

Final Examination

Thursday, Dec. 13 - - 2:45-5:00

The following articles will appear in the course reader:

Belanger and Hong, "Too Late to Marry: Failure, Fate or Fortune." In *Gender, Household, State: Doi Moi in Vietnam*, J. Werner and D. Belanger, eds. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University SEAP. 2002.

Fitzgerald, Frances, Selected chapters from *Vietnam: Spirits of the Earth*. Boston: Bulfinch Press, 2001.

Fjelstad, "We Have Len Dong Too." In *Possessed by Spirits: Mediumship in Contemporary Vietnamese Communities*, K. Fjelstad and Nguyen Thi Hien, eds. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University SEAP Publications, 2006.

Gammeloft, "The Irony of Sexual Agency: Premarital Sex in Urban North Vietnam." In *Gender, Household, State: Doi Moi in Vietnam*, J. Werner and D. Belanger, eds. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University SEAP. 2002.

Hue Tam Ho Tai, "Faces of Remembrance and Forgetting," In *The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam*, Hue Tam Ho Tai, ed., Berkeley: UC Press, 2001.

Hy Van Luong, "Wealth, Power and Inequality: Global Market, The State, and Local Sociocultural Dynamics." In *Postwar Vietnam: Dynamics of a Transforming Society*, Hy Van Luong, ed., Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.

Kennedy, L. and M.R. Williams, "The Past Without the Pain: The Manufacture of Nostalgia in Vietnam's Tourism Industry." In *The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam*, Hue Tam Ho Tai, ed., Berkeley: UC Press, 2001.

Lam, Andrew "My Vietnam, My America." In *The Vietnam Forum: A Review of Vietnamese Culture and Society*, 14, New Haven, CT: Yale University Council on Southeast Asia Studies, 1993.

Lam, Truong Buu "The Vietnamese Perception of Reality," In *Colonialism Experienced: Vietnamese Writings on Colonialism, 1900-1931*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000.

Luu, Khoa "A Heart of Sorrow: Exposing the Lighter Side of the Vietnamese American Experience." In *The Vietnam Forum: A Review of Vietnamese Culture and Society*, 14, New Haven, CT: Yale University Council on Southeast Asia Studies, 1993.

Malarney, Shaun "The Fatherland Remembers Your Sacrifice: Commemorating the War Dead in Vietnam," In *The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam*, Hue Tam Ho Tai, ed., Berkeley: UC Press, 2001.

Nguyen, Chung "Power from the Heart: A Trip to Vietnam" In *The Vietnam Forum: A Review of Vietnamese Culture and Society*, 14, New Haven, CT: Yale University Council on Southeast Asia Studies, 1993.

Rambo and Jamieson, "Upland Areas, Ethnic Minorities, and Development" In *Postwar Vietnam: Dynamics of a Transforming Society*, Hy Van Luong, ed., Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.

Scupin, Raymond, Selected chapters from *Peoples and Cultures of Asia*, New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2006.

Taylor, Philip, "Goddess of Freedom" In *Goddess on the Rise: Pilgrimage and Popular Religion in Vietnam*, P. Taylor, Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2004.