

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The US & Vietnam: Legacies & Impact on US Politics, History & Culture
Status: Definitive
Code: **6015HIST** (117864)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Alex Miles	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 64
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 176

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24
Online	14
Workshop	24

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	AS3	Exam 2 hrs	60	2
Presentation	AS2	Group Poster Project	40	

Aims

1. Allow you to explore, explain and critically assess the factors that led to the US intervention in Vietnam and examine the short and long term impact of the war on US politics, society and culture.
2. Apply primary source material, literary texts, film material to illuminate the decision making process and the key controversies surrounding the conflict.

3. *Critically examine the historiographical debate about the conflict and its legacy.*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Understand and interpret the political, social and cultural legacies of the conflict within the United States.
- 2 Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the various types of source materials used by historians of the war and relate them to key issues studied in a blog format.
- 3 Offer clear and scholarly opinion on key controversies relating to US intervention in Vietnam and produce well argued and reasoned verbal and written arguments.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Exam	2	
Group Poster Project	1	3

Outline Syllabus

We will look at some of the following issues:

The Vietnamese revolution; Vietnam in a Cold War context; the US and the Geneva Accords; JFK, Diem and Quagmire; LBJ - Reluctant Warrior? Nixon and the long withdrawal; the impact of the war on US foreign policy; the military experience in Vietnam, US media and the war - advocate or opponent? The depiction of Vietnam Veterans; Vietnam and Black America; Portrayals of the war in literature and film.

Learning Activities

1. Guided, detailed reading in preparation for weekly classes and production of blogs
2. Preparing for and delivering individual presentations
3. Primary source analysis exercises
4. Discussion based lectures and seminars

Notes

This course will explore the historical controversies surrounding the origins and course of the US intervention in Vietnam, its immediate and long-term impacts upon Vietnam, and its legacies with respect to US foreign policy. Primary documents and secondary literature will be used to illuminate and critically assess those controversies; with conclusions being reached on how US foreign policy contributed

to and was changed by the national encounter with Vietnam. The first part of the course will focus on the international and regional context of the conflict, exploring US policy in detail while also considering the actions and rationale of Vietnamese, Chinese and Soviet actors. The origins of the conflict, the torturous path followed by presidents from Truman to Nixon and the implications of American failure in the conflict will be analysed; with students being able to support their own conclusions on the war through recourse to primary and secondary sources.

The second part of the course explores the legacies of the Vietnam War upon American society and culture; examining both its short and long term impact. The course will consider, amongst other topics, the protest movements that developed as a consequence of the conflict, the lessons learnt by the US military, the experience of the ordinary soldier and the Vietnam veteran and the representation of the war in American cinema and literature. Students will develop a sensitivity to the ways in which sources such as official records, memoirs, journalistic accounts, television news reports, novels, motion pictures and popular songs can be used to enhance understanding of the past.