

## **NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY HIS 277 - THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM (3 CR.)**

### **Course Description**

Analyzes American involvement in Vietnam from World War II with emphasis on the presidencies of Johnson, Nixon and Ford. Lecture 3 hours per week

### **General Course Purpose**

Explain how and why the United States became involved in Vietnam within the broader context of US foreign policy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

No prerequisites. Preferable, but not mandatory, that students complete HIS 121-122 prior to enrollment.

### **Course Objectives**

- Identify major goals, events, personalities, and concepts that initiated and then sustained U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
- Analyze Vietnam's quest for independence and French as well as U.S. foreign policy goals in the twentieth century.
- Provide students with an opportunity to examine the war through the perspectives of Vietnamese, French, and American soldiers and civilians as well as policy makers through a critical analysis of both primary and secondary sources.
- Encourage students to consider political, economic, military, ideological, and cultural issues from a national as well as global perspective.

### **Major Topics to Be Considered**

- An overview of Vietnamese history and Western colonialism (1880s to the 1940s)
- Origins of the Cold War and the First Indochina War (1945-1954)
- Nation Building in South Vietnam (1954-1961)
- Kennedy and Diem (1961-1963)
- Johnson's Decisions for War and the United States at War (1963-1967)
- Tet Offensive (1968)
- A War for Peace: Nixon, Kissinger, and Vietnamization (1969-1973)
- Peace negotiations and the Anti-war movement
- End of American involvement and the Legacies of Vietnam

### **Extra Topics May Be Covered**

1. Vietnamese history prior to US involvement
2. Postwar Vietnam syndrome
3. Depiction of US involvement in film and literature