History 3762

Vietnamese History

Professor Joshua Fogel
Thursday, 11:30-2:30
Founders College 104

Office: 2132 Vari Hall
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Office hour: Thursday, 10:30-11:30

This course covers the history of Vietnam (that is, the country we now call “Vietnam” or, better, “Viet Nam”) from high antiquity until the French conquest in the latter half of the nineteenth century. We will examine such topics as the construction of the Vietnamese political order, society, and culture over the course of time. We will also look at religious, literary, and gender issues, and take special notice of Vietnam’s relations (diplomatic, military, and cultural) with its large neighbor to the north, China.

Because there is nothing even remotely resembling a good textbook in English, all of the readings except one will be found on the course website. The one exception is the acclaimed novel, *The Tale of Kiêu* by Nguyễn Du, which should be available at the York Bookstore.

**NOTE:** Because there is no textbook, the readings complement the lectures—they do not cover the same material at all. The lectures will weave the historical web providing the narrative background. Usually, it is the way around in a general course such as this. **Therefore, class attendance is essential.** If you miss a lecture, you will have to get the notes from a classmate. Not having material from class could prove deleterious to your grade. **Please have the common decency not to ask me to summarize material you missed in class or to give you handouts you missed because of an absence.**

Course requirements are simple. There will be four, in-class, 90-minute exams. No extra-credit work or written papers.

Please be advised that I use the traditional (not the York) grading system: 90-100 for the “A” range; 80-90 for the “B” range; 70-80 for the “C” range; 60-70 for the “D” range; and below 60 would be a failing grade.
Class Schedule
(all page numbers from on-line reader)

September 10  Introduction, distribution of materials
September 17  Early Vietnam and the Chinese “conquest”
September 24  Vietnamese Response, Adaptation, and Independence

October 1    The Lý Unification

October 8    Politics and Religion under the Trân

October 15   Fall Reading Week

October 22   The Mongol Invasions, Vietnam’s Responses, and the Fall of the Trân

October 29   EXAM ONE

November 5   The Chinese Invasion and Occupation of Vietnam

November 12  Lê Loi and the Reassertion of Vietnamese Independence

November 19  State and Society under the Lê

November 26  The Trịnh and the Nguyễn

December 3   EXAM TWO
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>No class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Westerners in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Vietnam</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>: Poems by Ho Xuân Huong, pp. 259-261</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>Literature and Culture in Eighteenth Century Vietnam</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>: Continue <em>The Tale of Kiều</em></td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>The Tây-son Rebellion and the Collapse of the Nguyên and the Trinh</td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong>: Finish reading Nguyễn Du, <em>The Tale of Kiều</em></td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Reading week</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>EXAM THREE</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Catch-up session (lectures and readings)</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
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