**History of Vietnam**

This is a preliminary reading list for a future course on the history of Vietnam. The themes I emphasize are historical memory, literature and scripts, and Western views of Vietnam.

**Required Books:**

Jayne Werner, George Dutton, and John K. Whitmore, eds. *The Sources of Vietnamese Tradition*

Huynh Sanh Thong, trans., *An Anthology of Vietnamese Poems: From the Eleventh through the Twentieth Centuries*

**Anthologies of historical essays on Vietnam:**

Nhung Tuyet Tran and Anthony Reid, *Viet Nam: Borderless Histories*

Keith Taylor and John Whitmore, eds. *Essays into Vietnamese Pasts*

Nola Cooke, ed. *The Tongking Gulf Through History*

**General Histories of Southeast Asia**

Victor Lieberman, *Strange Parallels* Volume 1, Integration on the Mainland: Southeast Asia in Global Context, c.800-1830 and Volume 2, Mainland Mirrors: Europe, Japan, China, South Asia, and the Islands: Southeast Asia in Global Context, c.800-1830.

Chandler, et al, eds. *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*

Tarling, ed. *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia*

Anthony Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce*

O.W. Wolters, *History, Culture and Region in Southeast Asian Perspectives*

Truong Buu Lam, *A Story of Viet Nam*

Brantley Womack, *The Politics of Asymmetry*

**Topics and Possible Readings**

**Introduction to Southeast Asia**

**Early cultures of Vietnam**

Charles Higham, *Early Cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia* and *The Bronze Age in Southeast Asia*.

**Yue:**

Eric Henry, “The Submerged History of the Yue,” *Sino-Platonic Papers*, May 2007 (176).

Heather Peters, “Tattooed Faces and Stilt Houses: Who Were the Ancient Yue?” *Sino-Platonic Papers*, April 1990 (17).

Erica Brindley, Barbarians or not? Ethnicity and Changing Conceptions of the Ancient Yue (Viet) Peoples (~400-50 B. C.),” *Asia Major* 16.1 (2003), 1-32

**The Nanyue Kingdom and Funan**

*Birth of Vietnam*

James Khoo, ed. *Art & Archeology of Funan*

**The Trung Sisters and Chinese colonialism**

Readings: Keith Taylor, *The Birth of Vietnam*

Stephan O'Harrow. “From Co-loa to the Trung Sisters' Revolt: Viet-Nam as the Chinese Found It.” *Asian Perspectives* 22 (2) 1982: 140-64.

(Compare Chinese and Vietnamese historical sources on the uprising of the Trung sisters)

**Early Vietnamese Histories**

Readings: Keith Taylor, *The Birth of Vietnam*; excerpts from *Sources of Vietnamese Tradition*

**Early Modern Vietnam**

Geoff Wade and Sun Laichen, *Southeast Asia in the Fifteenth Century: The China Factor*

John K. Whitmore and Kenneth Hall, eds. *Explorations in Early Southeast Asian History: The Origins of Southeast Asian Statecraft*

Alexander Woodside, *Lost Modernities: China, Vietnam, Korea and the Hazards of World History*

Website: Southeast Asia in the Ming Shilu

<http://www.epress.nus.edu.sg/msl/>

This website has a word searchable translation of all the Chinese Ming dynasty (1368-1644) “veritable records” (shilu) on Southeast Asia. This source was the raw material for dynastic histories, and is mostly concerned with tribute missions, official communications, and some discussion of wars or succession disputes in Southeast Asian countries.

**Champa**

Readings: Emmanuel Guillon, ed. *Cham Art.*

Andrew Hardy, ed. *Champa and the Archeology of My Son*.

**Confucianism in Vietnam**

Readings: Liam Kelley, “‘Confucianism’ in Vietnam: A State of the Field Essay,” Journal of Vietnamese Studies 1.1-2 (2006): 314-370.

John K. Whitmore, “Literati Culture and Integration in Dai Viet, c.1430-c.1840,” Modern Asian Studies, Volume 31(3), 1997

Stephan O’Harrow. “Vietnamese Women and Confucianism: creating spaces from patriarchy,” in *Male and Female in Developing Southeast Asia*, W. J. Karim, ed.

**Religion in Vietnam**

Olga Dror, trans. *Opusculum de sectis apud sinenses et Tunkonese (A Small Treatise on the Sects among the Chinese and Tonkinese)*

Olga Dror, *Princess Lieu Hanh in Vietnamese History.*

Cuong Tu Nguyen, *Zen in Medieval Vietnam.*

Nhung Tuyet Tran, Les Amantes de la Croix: an Early Modern Lay Vietnamese Sisterhood," in Bousquet & Taylor, eds., Le Viet Nam au feminin.

Philip Taylor, ed. *Modernity and Re-enchantment: Religion in Post-Revolutionary Vietnam*

**Chu Nom and Quoc Ngu**

Excerpt on nom from S. Robert Ramsey, *The Languages of China*

Michele Thompson, “Scripts Signs and Swords” *Sino-Platonic Papers*, March 2000 (101).

John DeFrancis, *Colonialism and Language Policy in Vietnam.*

Website: Nom Preservation Foundation: http://nomfoundation.org/vnpf\_new/

Website: <http://www.xubing.com/index.php/site/projects/year/1987/book_from_the_sky>

(A contemporary Chinese artist’s independent creation of nom-like characters)

**Maritime Vietnam/New Ways of Being Vietnamese**

Readings: Li Tana, *Nguyen Cochinchina: Southern Vietnam in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*; Eric Tagliocozzo, ed. *Chinese Circulations: Capital, Commodities, and Networks in Southeast Asia*

Recommended: Pierre Brocheaux, *The Mekong Delta: Ecology, Economy, and Revolution, 1860-1960*

Keith Weller Taylor, “Literati Culture and Integration in Dai Viet, c.1430-c.1840,” Modern Asian Studies, Volume 31(3), 1997

**Western Views of Vietnam**

Readings: Olga Dror, *Views of Seventeenth Century Vietnam: Christoforo Boro on Cochinchina and Samuel Baron on Tonkin.*

**The Tay Son and the Development of Vietnamese Nationalism**

George Dutton, *The Tay So'n Uprising: Society And Rebellion in Eighteenth-century Vietnam*

**Gender in Vietnam**

Ho Xuan Huong (John Balaban, ed) *Spring Essence: the Poetry of Ho Xuan Huong*

Nhung Tuyet Tran, Gender, Property, and the 'Autonomy Thesis' in Southeast Asia: the Endowment of Local Succession in Early Modern Viet Nam." *Journal of Asian Studies*. (Slightly different version of same article in Viet Nam: Borderless Histories under title “Beyond the Myth of Equality: Women's Inheritance in the Le Code.”)

John K. Whitmore, “Gender, State, History: the Literati Voice in Early Modern Vietnam,” in *Other Pasts, Women and Gender in Early Modern Southeast Asia*, ed. B.W. Andaya

**The Tale of Kieu**

Huynh Sanh Thong, trans., *The Tale of Kieu*

John Balaban, ed. *Ca Dao Vietnam: Vietnamese Folk Poetry;*

**Vietnam and the Chinese Model**

Liam Kelley, *Beyond the Bronze Pillars: Envoy Poetry and Sino-Vietnamese Relationship*; Alexander Woodside, *Vietnam and the Chinese Model:* A Comparative Study of Nguyen and Ch'ing Civil Government in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century

Choi Byung Wook. *Southern Vietnam Under the Reign of Minh Mang (1820-1841): Central Policies and Local Response*

**Beginnings of Colonization**

Alastair Lamb, *The Mandarin Road to Old Hue: Narratives of Anglo-Vietnamese Diplomacy from the Seventeenth Century to the Eve of French Conquest.*

(The Sino-French War is an important topic, can’t think of any good sources in English).

**Colonialism and Anti-Colonialism**

Peter Zinoman, *The Colonial Bastille: A History of Imprisonment in Vietnam, 1862-1940*

David Marr, *Vietnamese Anti-Colonialism, 1885-1925;* Truong Buu Lam, *Colonialism Experienced: Vietnamese Writings on Colonialism, 1900-1931*

Pierre Brocheaux, ed, Indochina: An Ambiguous Colonization, 1858-1954 (From Indochina to Vietnam: Revolution and War in a Global Perspective)

Tran Tu Binh, *The Red Earth: A Vietnamese Memoir of Life on a Colonial Rubber Plantation*

Website: Old Photos of Vietnam (this website is in Vietnamese, but it’s possible to figure out what’s going on) http://nguyentl.free.fr/html/sommaire\_photo\_ancienne\_vn.htm

**Early 20th Century Society**

Zinoman, trans. *Dumb Luck*;

David Marr, *Vietnamese Tradition on Trial: 1920-1945*

Hue Tam Ho Tai, [*Passion, Betrayal, and Revolution in Colonial Saigon: The Memoirs of Bao Luong*](http://www.amazon.com/Passion-Betrayal-Revolution-Colonial-Saigon/dp/0520262263/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1309726995&sr=1-1)

Shawn McHale, *Print and Power: Confucianism, Communism, and Buddhism in the Making of Modern Vietnam*

**Highland Vietnam**

Andrew Hardy, *Red Hills: Migrants and the State in the Highlands of Vietnam*

Oscar Salemink, ‘The King of Fire and Vietnamese Ethnic Policy in the Central Highlands’ in Ken Kampe’s and Don McCaskill’s *Development of Domestication? Indigenous Peoples of Southeast Asia*

James Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*

Bradley Camp Davis, *States of Banditry* (forthcoming)

**First Indochinese War**

Readings: Hue Tai Ho Tam, *Radicalism and the Origins of the Vietnamese Revolution;*

David Marr, *Vietnam 1945: The Quest for Power*

Film: *The Buffalo Boy* (*Mùa len trâu*)

**The American War**

Readings: Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

Robert McMahon, *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War: Documents and Essays*

Mark Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America*

Website: Texas Tech Vietnam War archive:

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/general/>

**Ho Chi Minh**

Readings: compare excerpts from Duiker, *Ho Chi Minh: A Life* and *Ho* by David Halberstam. How can we account for the differences?

**Experience of War**

Dang Thuy Tram, *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace: the Diary of Dang Thuy Tram*

Novels -- Bao Ninh, *The Sorrow of War*; Duong Thu Huong, *Novel Without a Name*; Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*

James Trullinger, *Village at War: An Account of Conflict in Vietnam*

Truong Nhu Tang, *Viet Cong Memoir*

Website: Francois Sully Collection, wartime photography

<http://www.joinercenter.umb.edu/Archives/Photographic%20Collections/Francois%20Sully%20Collection.htm>

Film: *The White Silk Dress*

**Post-war**

Film: *Living in Fear*

Hue Tam Ho Tai and John Bodner, *The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam*

Viet Thanh Nguyen, “A Country Not Our Own: Memory and the American War in Viet Nam.”

**War with Cambodia and China**

Readings: excerpt from *The Politics of Asymmetry*; Ben Kiernan, *The Pol Pot Regime*

excerpt from Wang Shuo, *Playing for Thrills* (novel that deals with Chinese soldiers returning from the war. A bit of a stretch for class on Vietnam)

**Doi Moi**

Readings: Duong Thu Huong, *Paradise of the Blind*

Edward Martini, *Invisible Enemies: the American War on Vietnam, 1975-2000*

Website: Photographs of Vietnam in the 1980s.

http://people.clemson.edu/%7Eeemoise/vphotos.html

**Vietnam Today**

Readings: Eric Harms, *Saigon's Edge: Space, Time, and Power on Ho Chi Minh City's Rural-Urban Margin* (forthcoming)

**American’s Vietnam**

Readings: Tim O’Brien, “The Vietnam in Me,” *New York Times Magazine*, October 2, 1994;

Nam Le, selection from *The Boat*

Website: Vietnam Literature Project http://www.vietnamlit.org/

Film: *Rambo: First Blood*