



Vietnam Regional Area Study Fall 2016

- Two months based in HoChiMinh City (Saigon) with field-work excursions to the Mekong Delta and Dalat highlands.
- One month based in Siem Reap, Cambodia (near Angkor Wat) with field-work excursions to archeological sites, minority areas and Phnom Penh.
- No language requirement or credits.
- Coursework emphasizes comparative engagement with themes of nationalism and identity, environment and development, heritage and tourism as well as ethnographic methods.
- Program leader Fall 2016: **Kabir Mansingh Heimsath** (Sociology and Anthropology): kabirmh@lclark.edu

Program Design:

Study focuses on a broad interdisciplinary introduction to the history, language, culture and politics of this Southeast Asian country. During the first and longest component, the program will be located in Ho Chi Minh City where students will complement structured coursework with periodic field-assignments. The latter portion of the program will include extended study-excursions to other regional cities, heritage sites and ethnic minority areas for comparative perspectives on nationalism, identity, and development.

Requirements Fulfilled:

IS 240 and 241 fulfill the 8-credit International Studies general education requirement. SOAN 200 fulfills qualitative methods requirement.

Credits:

4 courses per semester/16 credits

Curriculum:**SOAN 200 Qualitative Research Methods (4 credits):**

The philosophical roots of social science research, nature of research materials in the social sciences, issues involved in their collection and interpretation. Ethical dimensions of research. Ethnographic methods including participant observation, interviewing, careful attention to language. Application of these methods in research projects in the local community. Enrollment preference given to departmental majors fulfilling degree requirements.

IS 240 Modern Vietnamese History (4 credits):

Covers the periods of Vietnamese history from 1802 to the present. Course focuses primarily on the past two centuries of Vietnamese history: the establishment of the country's last dynasty, French colonial conquest and domination, the introduction of Marxism-Leninism, the struggle and recovery of independence in 1945, the war of resistance against France (the Indochina War) and the war of resistance against the United States (the Vietnam War).

IS 241 Vietnamese Society Today (4 credits):

Explores contemporary Vietnamese society and culture from both inside and outside perspectives, with an emphasis on the changes since the end of the American War (1975) and the beginning of economic reforms (1986). Classes held in a participatory seminar style, with weekly readings and discussions plus guest speakers and field trips.

IS 242 Environmental Sustainability in Vietnam: Problems and Solutions (4 credits):

The staggering growth in Vietnam has and continues to produce considerable negative impacts on Vietnam's environmental systems, some of which suffered even before reforms reinvigorated the economy. This course will survey some of the major environmental problems Vietnam is currently facing in both urban and rural contexts. Through lectures and field trips, students will talk with experts on particular issues and experience everyday problems directly. Current strategies and possible solutions to various concerns will also be explored. Topics will include: urbanization / population resettlement, sustainable farming, biodiversity, waste management, air and water pollution, wildlife conservation, and legacies of the war.

Program Comments:

Vietnam has entered the 21st century as one of the most politically and economically dynamic countries of Asia. Through a curriculum that emphasizes the uniquely situated aspect of study-abroad, students will have the opportunity to do guided in-depth research into the dramatic changes currently transforming Asia. From the bustling metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City to the highlands of Cambodia and Laos, the program seeks to foster a new understanding of global issues through engagement with specific people, places, and problems.