

Vietnam

Culture, Social Change, and Development

Examine economic and social development in the cultural context of Vietnam, one of Southeast Asia's most fascinating and rapidly changing countries.

Coursework

Culture, Social Change, and Development Seminar

ASIA 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course explores how global, national, and local forces dynamically interact to shape Vietnam's contemporary circumstances. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of Economics, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Vietnam National University, the Fulbright Program Center in Ho Chi Minh City, and local universities throughout Vietnam (Can Tho and An Giang University in the Mekong Delta, Hue University in Hue City, and Hanoi University in Hanoi).

Seminar topics typically include:

Vietnamese Life and Culture

An exploration of Vietnam from the earliest-known civilizations to the present day; cultural and religious traditions, including Confucian, Buddhist, Taoist, Christian, and popular religion; conceptions of political structure and authority; traditional village life, family life, and gender roles; regional and ethnic diversity; French colonial rule; resistance and revolution; Vietnam's twentieth-century wars in experience and memory; nationalism, unification, and "renovation," or Doi Moi process; the current political system and its transformations; traditional and contemporary arts, folklore, and literature.

Development and Social Transformation

The impact of economic development and globalization on local cultures; urbanization and migration patterns; contemporary urban and rural life; the balance between economic growth and environment; changing family and marriage patterns; gender issues; labor practices; sexuality and reproductive health; ethnic minorities; contemporary religions, rites, and ceremonies; tourism.

Educational Excursions

The program provides the opportunity to study and explore Vietnam's cultural and natural heritage through visits to the Central Highlands, Sapa (on the Chinese border), Hanoi, and ancient cities, such as Hue and Hoi An. Visits are also made to rural villages and protected areas in the Mekong Delta and other parts of the country. A relevant service learning project may be conducted based on the local context.

Intensive Language Study: Vietnamese

VIET 1000-3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced classes.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Topics include cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; identifying appropriate research methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, or in another approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** small and medium entrepreneurship; gender roles in Vietnamese society; the impact of migration on urban life; heritage site management and conservation; craft villages in transition;



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Ho Chi Minh City

Language Study Vietnamese

Homestays Ho Chi Minh City, 3 weeks

Other Accommodations Guest houses, hostels, or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

Vietnamese culinary arts; microcredit projects; poverty reduction and hunger eradication; Vietnamese culture viewed through the media, literature, or popular music; public health; memory of the French and American wars; education and mysticism in a modern socialist society.

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit www.sit.edu/VNR for details.