The course examines modern Vietnam and its pre-modern antecedents. Topics to be covered include life under China’s Han and Tang dynasties, introduction of Buddhism, rise of independent Viet dynasties, defeat of the Mongols, neo-Confucian Vietnam, the rise of warlords, Portuguese introduction of Catholicism, peasant rebellion, neo-Confucian revival, French conquest and colonialism, the American war, Stalinist communism’s triumph over domestic rivals, war with Khmer Rouge and China, and the turn to the market-oriented socialism of today.

Winter 2019

The class will involve discussion of texts and films, short writing assignments, mid-term, and final examination.