

## **Brockport Vietnam Program**

### **Summer – 4-week Program**

#### **Syllabus – Integrative Seminar**

This Integrated Seminar brings together the themes and content of semester courses in Vietnamese History, Vietnamese Culture, Vietnamese Politics, and Vietnamese Language. The seminar is taught by a variety of instructors from universities in Danang, Vietnam. It is presented in Vietnamese with real-time interpreting in a lecture/discussion format.

Students attend this seminar for four hours, four times each week. Students maintain a journal blog that summarizes each class meeting and assigned reading in a manner that reflects a mastery of course content, engages a critical analysis, and reflects the ability to integrate course content with the students' daily service-learning activities. The blog is to be available to those who wish to access it on the Internet. Students are encouraged to include photographs. The student will receive evaluative feedback from the Program Director at various times each week. The blog's evaluation will be based on the accuracy of information, the depth of analysis, and the student's ability to effectively communicate with the blog's audience. The student will be asked to evaluate their own work and to suggest a final grade for the seminar, based on their own perspective, the instructor's feedback, and an overall self-evaluation of their product and experience.

The Integrative Seminar has a variety of major themes: History, Culture, Politics, and Language.

#### History Theme

Vietnamese history is an over four-thousand-year history of struggle for its independence.

Vietnamese history is woven by great deeds made with deep patriotism, the undauntedness and the whole-hearted dedication of the Vietnamese people. These characteristics have been conserved and will be improved for the common good. While studying Vietnamese history, the students not only have chances to understand how Vietnamese people lived in the wartime or how they could gain such glorious victories in spite of challenges they were facing but also touch Vietnamese people's

beauty in peacetime. Vietnamese history does not simply record historical events; it is also a place in which Vietnamese people's characteristics are kept. A full understanding of Vietnamese history will help the students understand their clients who vary in age and gender more clearly and facilitate their integration during their four-week-stay in Vietnam.

### History focus objectives:

Students are expected to:

1. distinguish the four periods of Vietnamese history and state the characteristics of each period.
2. analyze the process of construction and defense of the country.
3. describe the Vietnamese people's struggles against Chinese invaders.
4. demonstrate their knowledge of a nearly 100-year struggle against the French invaders.
5. demonstrate the Vietnamese people's 21-year struggle against the US invasion.
6. illustrate the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party in fighting against foreign invaders.
7. describe Ho Chi Minh 's contributions to the Vietnamese People's Revolution.
8. demonstrate knowledge of socialism construction and illustrate the achievements and challenges of Vietnamese people after the reunification of the country on April 30th, 1975.

### Culture Theme

This course provides an understanding of Vietnamese culture. It approaches national and personal identity by drawing on the character of Vietnam. The seminar helps the student to explore a variety of cultural features of the Vietnamese identity. This includes understanding collectivism, family roles, the place of food, the practice of ancestor worship and other forms of belief

### Culture focus objectives

1. Demonstrate understanding of the everyday communication of the Vietnamese people.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the ways the Vietnamese do business.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role Vietnamese food plays in the daily functional and spiritual context of society.
4. Examine Vietnamese culture as a culture of diversity and multiple nationalities.
5. Explore Vietnamese culture as a culture based on rural wet rice agriculture
6. Demonstrate the collectivism in Vietnamese culture
7. Examine the roles of family in the lives of the Vietnamese people
8. Examine the significance of the practice of ancestor worship in the spiritual life of the Vietnamese people
9. Examine the history and culture of Quang Nam – Danang
10. Examine the Champa culture and its influence on the Vietnamese culture

### Politics Theme

The Politics focus of this seminar examines the political system of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The functioning of the political system over time and in the present are examined closely. For the students, this provides a thorough understanding of this system as well as the difficulties Vietnam is having with

globalization. The socio-political structure and functioning of Vietnam is closely examined, often in the contexts of the nation's Constitution and daily experience. The theoretical foundation of the state is explored, Marx/Lenin/Ho Chi Minh.

### Politics focus objectives

1. Describe the concepts of political systems in general and the socialist political system in Vietnam.
2. Analyze the essence and functions of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
3. Demonstrate and analyze the six areas with which the Communist Party leads the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
4. Demonstrate and analyze Ho Chi Minh's ideology on the work for the masses.
5. Demonstrate the powers and obligations of the National Assembly, State President, Government, Prime Minister and Judicial organs.
6. Discuss and compare the above items with their U.S. counterparts.
7. Read all the news related to Vietnam during their stay in Danang.

### Language Theme

This course provides an understanding of the Vietnamese language. The American students will be challenged and attracted by the melody of the Vietnamese

language. Vietnamese is a monosyllabic language that is based on tones. Students will be charmed as they experience the beauty of the Vietnamese people through learning their language. This focus also provides a good opportunity for students to interact with the local people in a constructive manner in building bridges between the two countries, if only in an elementary manner.

Language focus objectives:

1. Examine and develop an elementary understanding of Vietnamese language.
2. Engage in communication with local people in their daily contacts with some simple phrases.
2. Use elementary Vietnam in service learning activities.
3. Understand the influence shared by language and culture.