

Tentative Course Syllabus (3/27/19)
FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES
Global Community Development: Vietnam
Sam M. Walton College of Business
January, 2019

Course credit for: WCOB 230V

Course Objectives: For study abroad, the classroom is the real-world experience of living in and working in another culture. This course is designed to inspire intellectual curiosity about the world as it is and foster a deeper understanding of the global condition. The course will assist students to cultivate intercultural understanding, to apply what they learn, and to begin to grasp the role of “business” – locally and globally – in the community. Very specifically, you will:

- Gain knowledge about the norms and cultures of the country and how those affect business
- Develop critical thinking skills, tolerance for ambiguity, and confidence
- Extend your awareness of your own values and culture

Class Parameters

The course consists of three parts:

- A pre-departure component during the Fall semester that will include an introduction to the historical, cultural, social, and economic environments of Vietnam. This will include some individual assignments (write a pre-trip report based on your perspectives and expectations of your experience in-country) and some small-group assignments (finding information to help the group prepare for the trip).
- A two-week-plus field study component in Vietnam. The field study will include community development projects, working in conjunction with faculty and students at Can Tho University, through the Peacework organization. Specific requirements for “in-country” are outlined below.
- A final paper to be submitted after we return

Course Readings

Two of the four pre-trip meetings will include discussion of required readings. The list of these are provided in the Appendix. The assigned chapters, articles, and other materials will be made available online at:

Vietnamrazorbacks.com, through Blackboard, and through direct e-mail

Assessment

Grades will be assigned based on participation in and completion of projects.

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APPENDIX: U.S. ITINERARY AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments: *If you have NOT completed WCOB core requirements (Freshman, Sophomore)* Pre-trip report will include “my plan for how study abroad in Vietnam fits into my academic and professional career.” Identify and elaborate on five goals. Post-trip report will include (among other issues) “how I fulfilled/did not fulfill the goals I set for this trip.”
Elaboration and discussion.

Reflection paper assignments are designed specifically to assess academic, ability and awareness outcomes. Team projects in which the you work with members of the community (Hoa An village, Can Tho University, others) will also be assessed. Oral presentations and discussion will be interspersed throughout. We will all spend dedicated time to documenting our day-to-day activities and to use this material in reflection reports and other assignments.

Three sessions/class periods will be held prior to departure. Readings and writing assignments are as follows:

Pre-trip class sessions

Pre-trip session 1: introductions, background, and team assignments; first self-assessment paper assigned

Pre-trip session 2: history and current issues in Vietnam
Assigned Readings:

Vietnam Today: A Guide to a Nation at a Crossroads (2005) by Mark A. Ashwill
Chapters 3 (A Brief History) & 4 (Vietnam at Peace)

Vietnam: A Natural History (2006) by Eleanor Jane Sterling
Chapters 8 & 9

Pre-trip session 3: business practices in Vietnam
Assigned readings:

Vietnam Today: A Guide to a Nation at a Crossroads (2005) by Mark A. Ashwill
Chapters 5 & 6

Doing Business: Economy Profile Vietnam 2014 (2013) World Bank.

“Vietnam’s Second Revolution” (2014) by Elizabeth Pond, *World Policy Journal*

“World Factbook: Vietnam” (2015) cia.gov website

Session 4: finalizing trip plans and logistics