

MAJOR DESCRIPTION & FLOWCHART

AS OF DECEMBER, 2022

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VIETNAM STUDIES

Description

Over the past thirty years, Vietnam Studies has expanded enormously and thrived both in Vietnam and in research institutes and universities in Asia, Europe, North America, and Australia. Contemporary Vietnam Studies has moved beyond colonial and Cold War paradigms and preoccupations to examine the country and its multidimensional features throughout history and in contemporary time in both regional and global contexts.

A strong Vietnam Studies major has always been integral to the original vision of the founders of Fulbright University Vietnam. Vietnam Studies includes scholarly research in Han-Nom, French, and *quốc ngữ* texts, materials, and sources, as well as critical examinations of Vietnamese politics, society, culture, and economy. Scholarly work in Vietnam Studies is by nature interdisciplinary, and includes not only the study of people, communities, and institutions within the national territory of Vietnam, but also the Vietnamese diaspora and Vietnam in regional contexts of East and Southeast Asia.

- The Vietnam Studies Major is designed for any student, regardless of their national or ethnic origin, who wants to pursue the study of Vietnam from multiple critical perspectives.
- Vietnam Studies is an interdisciplinary field in which scholars and students draw upon the theory and methods of various disciplines (including humanities, social sciences, and natural science fields) to fashion transdisciplinary approaches to the study of Vietnam. Advanced (300-level) courses will help VS students build expertise in areas including Vietnam and Area Studies, Ethnohistory, International Relations, Interdisciplinary Economics (e.g., environmental economics, or heritage economics), Cultural Studies, Education, Digital Humanities, and Vietnamese Literature and Film. Additionally, VS students are encouraged to take up minors or double majors in the other fields offered at Fulbright.
- Because Vietnam Studies is an *area studies field*, Vietnam Studies majors will learn to situate Vietnam in regional and global contexts. VS students will also gain the ability to study Vietnam in comparative

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perspective, so that they can think more critically and constructively about Vietnam's connections to the rest of the world.

- All Vietnam Studies majors are required to study one or more relevant language, besides English and Vietnamese, that can be used to conduct advanced research on Vietnam. Depending on a student's background and interests, the languages that may fulfill this requirement include modern Vietnamese in *quốc ngữ* (if Vietnamese is not their mother tongue), classical or modern Chinese, Nôm script, or a reading knowledge of modern French.
- In keeping with Fulbright University Vietnam's commitment to experiential learning, service learning, and educational exchange, Vietnamese Studies majors will connect their classroom studies to "real world" learning activities such as field study trips, community engagement activities, student exchange programs, and connected courses offered jointly with other universities.

In earning a Fulbright bachelor's degree in Vietnam Studies, strengthened by a specific disciplinary focus, plus language and interpersonal skills, students can confidently pursue a wide variety of careers where Vietnam stands at the center of an international network. For instance, they can work in the arts (including performance art and cinema), journalism, cultural and educational organizations, or research institutes. They can also work for economic, diplomatic, or international institutions; tourism and commercial companies; and/or (non-)governmental organizations in Vietnam or overseas that require both broad and deep knowledge of the country. Vietnam Studies graduates will also be prepared for graduate programs with a specific focus on Vietnam and related fields in universities around the world.

Learning Outcomes

Fulbright Vietnam Studies students will be able to

1. RECOGNIZE that historical and cultural heritage, as well as regional and global contexts, are all essential to understanding Vietnam;

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2. LISTEN, SPEAK, READ, and WRITE languages essential for understanding Vietnam, including but not limited to: classical/vernacular Chinese, Nôm script, and French at CEFR Level A2 or equivalent;
3. PERFORM close-readings and critical interpretations of texts and other media authored by local and international scholars, writers, and cultural producers;
4. COMMUNICATE and COLLABORATE effectively in intercultural environments;
5. FORMULATE and CONDUCT substantial independent research projects;
6. APPLY interdisciplinary skills and methods to address contemporary issues and become active citizens in Vietnamese society.

	MLO1	MLO2	MLO3	MLO4	MLO5	MLO6
Foundation Courses (100-levels)	I	I	I	I		
Theory & Methods in VS (VS205)	R		R	R	I	I
Intermediate Courses (200-levels)	R	M	R	R	I	I
Capstone Seminar			R	R	R	R
Research Seminars (300-levels)	M		M	M	M	M

Degree Requirements

Students will earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Vietnamese Studies after successfully completing the following courses:

- 5 Core courses (20 credits) and 8 Exploratory courses (32 credits), of which up to two Exploratory courses (8 credits) can be counted towards the major.

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- 1 Capstone Seminar (2 credits, optional for CO 2023, compulsory from CO 2024 onwards) and Experiential Learning (4 - 12 credits).
- 1 Theory & Methods in Vietnam Studies (previously: Introduction to Vietnamese Studies) (4 credits).
- 2 Foundation Courses (8 credits; both courses can also fulfill the Exploratory courses requirement).
- 1 Introductory Language Course (exempted if student can demonstrate CEFR A1 or equivalent proficiency with a valid certificate or through examination) (4 credits).
- 1 Intermediate Language Course (exempted if student can demonstrate CEFR A2 or equivalent proficiency with a valid certificate or through examination), OR 1 Intermediate Course (4 credits).
- 2 Intermediate Courses (8 credits).
- 2 Advanced (300 Level) Courses (8 credits).
- ONE of the following options:
 - 2 additional research seminars (8 credits); OR
 - Fulfill 8 additional credit hours of experiential learning (8 credits); OR
 - 1 research seminar and 4 additional experiential learning credit hours (8 credits)

Regular Major Requirements

In addition to the major requirements, students will have to fulfill the following requirements of a total of:

- 1 Elective course at any level in VS (4 credits)
- 1 VNS 300-level course (4 credits)

Major with Honors Requirements

- Minimum GPA Threshold by Summer of a Student's Third Year.
- Students must complete Capstone I and Capstone II
- The Capstone must be graded as Honors pass

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Sample Student Journey

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Core Courses Exploratory Courses Foundation Courses Beginner Language Course	Core Courses Exploratory Courses Theory & Methods in Vietnam Studies Intermediate Language Course/ Course Intermediate Courses Electives	Capstone Seminar Experiential Learning Intermediate Course Advanced Courses Electives	Advanced Course VNS Elective Course Capstone I (for Honors) Capstone II (for Honors)

Major Outline

Theory & Methods in Vietnam Studies (previously: *Introduction to Vietnamese Studies*) (4 credits): This required course introduces students to several crucial aspects of Vietnamese Studies as an interdisciplinary field and a part of regional studies. Students will first learn what “transdisciplinarity” and “area/regional studies” are, what regional studies we are talking about when talking about Vietnam, and why they are playing important roles in our understanding of the country and its people. Key concepts in social sciences and the humanities (such as “society,” “culture,” “nation and state,” or “globalization”) will be discussed to create a basic theoretical foundation for further understanding of “Vietnam.” Students will have the opportunity to examine a number of case studies, approve or question their research outcomes with a critical mind. Students will also have a chance to learn about local studies, recognizing the importance of the studies of urban centers and rural areas, such as Ho Chi Minh City (formerly, Saigon), Hue, Hanoi, or the Mekong Delta that will enrich their comprehension of those places in particular, and of Vietnam in general. Web-based talks and conversations with representative scholars in Vietnamese Studies from North America, Europe, East and Southeast Asia will help students recognize the global aspects of this fascinating academic field. A wide array of (re)sources for study and research will be introduced. At the end of the course, students are encouraged to work out a research topic of their choice supported by a preliminary bibliography. This course is open to VNS majors and non-majors.

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Foundation Courses: With interdisciplinary approaches, foundation courses further familiarize students with local studies, allowing them the chance to learn more about Vietnam:

- How to become a writer: lessons from Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese writers
 - Introduction to Comparative Politics: Bringing in Vietnam
 - Cultural and Intellectual Foundation of Vietnamese Literary Chinese I
 - Documentary Films from Vietnam: History, Theory, and Practice
 - Literacy upon Image and Moving Image: Examples from Vietnamese and International Cinema
1. Analysis of Vietnamese identities through contemporary Vietnamese cinema
 2. Introduction to Champa and Khmer History
 3. Digital Humanities in Vietnam Studies Contexts I
 4. Modern East Asia

Intermediate Courses: As students have been equipped with some theoretical approaches, foundational knowledge of Vietnam and its regions, language, and professional skills (such as oral history interview skills), intermediate courses deeper focus on close-readings and critical interpretation of “broadly defined texts.” Here are some examples:

- Going Hand in Hand: Politics and Economic Development in Contemporary Vietnam
- Vietnamese Cinema from Its Beginning to Present: Tendencies, Operating Mechanism
- The Challenge of Change: Civil Society and Social Movements in Vietnam
- The Legacy of the War in Retrospect I
- Cultural and Intellectual Foundation of Vietnamese Literary Chinese II
- Digital Creative Writing: Lessons from Vietnamese and Non-Vietnamese Writers
- Ethics in Practice: Philosophical Buddhist Ethics
- What Movies Show and Don't Show: Film Adaptations in Asian Contexts
- Modern Vietnam and Its Neighbors: Vietnam Diplomatic History

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- Developing Vietnam: History, Environment, and Culture
- Digital Humanities in Vietnam Studies Contexts II
- Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive View of Vietnam and the World
- Visualizing Vietnam
- A History of ASEAN
- Global Vietnam War I
- Global Vietnam War II
- Literature and Film of the Vietnamese Diaspora
- Gender and War Studies: The U.S.-Vietnam War
- Power, Personhood, and Place in Mainland Southeast Asia
- Development from Below: Indigenous paths to modernity in Vietnam

Advanced (300-level) Courses: Based on their academic interests, students will take three courses belonging to a specific discipline to claim their concentration. Here are some examples of courses that have already been taught:

- Evolution of Vietnamese Society in the 20th century from a multidisciplinary perspective
- Sources of Southeast Asian History
- The Legacy of the War in Retrospect II
- "All the World's a Stage": Performance Studies in Vietnam
- Researching and Writing Vietnamese Diplomatic History
- Vietnamese Republicanism
- History of International Communism

Capstone (8 credits): The Capstone project offers students with the excellent opportunity to conduct a year-long research and present it either as an individual thesis or a group-project work. Taking Vietnam as the center, this senior project can deal with a variety of issues (re)discovered in contemporary Vietnam thanks to

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new documents and/or new research methods. Students can employ transdisciplinary approaches for individual capstones, or a transdisciplinary teamwork of a group of students (whose disciplinary focuses are different) for group-project capstones. The capstone project can be presented in “traditional” format (i.e., written thesis), or multimedia-based product. However, it is strongly recommended that students should present it as a cinematic work built upon a fully developed research-script with footnotes and an annotated bibliography.

Requirements for Declaring the Vietnam Studies Major and Minor

To formally declare Vietnam Studies as their major, the student must complete the core courses, two foundation courses, and one intermediate course, plus one language course.

To formally declare Vietnam Studies as their minor, the student must complete the core courses, one foundation course, and one language course.

Minor Requirements

VNS requires students to complete six courses:

- 1 Theory & Methods in Vietnam Studies (4 credits)
- 1 Introductory Language Course (exempted if student can demonstrate CEFR A1 or equivalent proficiency with a valid certificate or through examination) (4 credits)
- 1 Foundational Course (4 credits)
- 2 Intermediate Courses (4 credits)
- 1 Advanced (300-level) Course (4 credits)

Trained in sharpening their critical thinking, problem-identifying and solving skills, VNS Minors will be equipped with transdisciplinary knowledge of Vietnam in regional and global contexts, together with skills in foreign language and digital humanities. This will help them become more competitive in any working environments that require a multidimensional understanding of Vietnam.

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FOUNDATION COURSES

Sample Foundation Courses

- How to become a writer: lessons from Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese writers
- Introduction to Comparative Politics: Bringing in Vietnam
- Cultural and Intellectual Foundation of Vietnamese Literary Chinese I
- Documentary Films from Vietnam: History, Theory, and Practice
- Literacy upon Image and Moving Image: Examples from Vietnamese and International Cinema
- Analysis of Vietnamese identities through contemporary Vietnamese cinema
- Introduction to Champa and Khmer History
- Digital Humanities in Vietnam Studies Contexts I
- Modern East Asia

Theory & Methods
in Vietnam Studies

Foundation Courses
(2 required)

Introductory Language Course*
(1 required)

Intermediate Language Course**
OR Intermediate Course
(1 required)

Intermediate courses
(2 required)

Advanced Courses
(2 required)

Research Seminars
OR Experiential Learning (EL)
OR Research Seminar + EL
(2 required)

ADVANCED COURSES (300-level)

Sample Advanced Courses

- Evolution of Vietnamese Society in the 20th century from a multidisciplinary perspective
- Sources of Southeast Asian History
- The Legacy of the War in Retrospect II
- "All the World's a Stage": Performance Studies in Vietnam
- Researching and Writing Vietnamese Diplomatic History
- Vietnamese Republicanism
- History of International Communism

INTERMEDIATE COURSES

Sample Intermediate Courses

- Going Hand in Hand: Politics and Economic Development in Contemporary Vietnam
- Vietnamese Cinema from Its Beginning to Present: Tendencies, Operating Mechanism
- The Challenge of Change: Civil Society and Social Movements in Vietnam
- The Legacy of the War in Retrospect I
- Cultural and Intellectual Foundation of Vietnamese Literary Chin
- Digital Creative Writing: Lessons from Vietnamese and Non-Vietnamese Writers
- Ethics in Practice: Philosophical Buddhist Ethics
- What Movies Show and Don't Show: Film Adaptations in Asian Contexts
- Modern Vietnam and Its Neighbors: Vietnam Diplomatic History
- Developing Vietnam: History, Environment, and Culture
- Digital Humanities in Vietnam Studies Contexts II
- Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive View of Vietnam and the World
- Visualizing Vietnam
- A History of ASEAN
- Global Vietnam War I & II
- Literature and Film of the Vietnamese Diaspora
- Gender and War Studies: The U.S.-Vietnam War
- Power, Personhood, and Place in Mainland Southeast Asia
- Development from Below: Indigenous paths to modernity in Vietnam

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

- Elective course at any level in VNS (1 required)
- VNS 300-level course (1 required)

Major Requirement
(2 required)

Capstone I &
Capstone II***
(2 required)

*exempted if student can demonstrate CEFR A1 or equivalent proficiency with a valid certificate or through examination

**exempted if student can demonstrate CEFR A2 or equivalent proficiency with a valid certificate or through examination

VIETNAM STUDIES MINOR (6 courses)

- Theory & Methods in Vietnam Studies (1 required)
- Introductory Language Course (1 required)
- Foundational Course (1 required)
- Intermediate Courses (2 required)
- Advanced (300-level) Course (1 required)