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## **COURSES OFFERED DURING THE CRITICAL STUDIES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABILITY IN VIETNAM - SUMMER OPEN ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

### **FOOD SYSTEMS IN VIETNAM (3 credits)**

In this course we will use anthropological and sociological tools to study food systems -- how food is produced and consumed and its sociocultural meanings, and understand food practices, histories, politics, and economics of the foods Vietnamese people eat. We will seek to understand how the foods people consume (and those they do not) provide more than simply nourishment—they help to constitute social identities and group formation. Worldwide, humans use the social “taste” of food to define and enforce class, race, and gender parameters. How do Vietnamese eaters, cooks, and food producers and purveyors construct these categories—and how have these categories, when related to food, changed over time? We will focus on food production and processing, regional and class differences in cuisine, and the ways Vietnamese cuisines are influenced through long interaction with French cuisine, and with Chinese and American modes of food economy and consumption. A central component of this course will be to cook and eat Vietnamese foods. We will also experience and assess food markets in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Hanoi, and various other locations in the country.

### **VIETNAM: CONFLICT, CONTRADICTION, AND CHANGE (3 credits)**

We explore the social world of Vietnam. We study the varied and complex history, culture and social relations of Vietnam. Through our study of their institutions, arts, and artifacts, we find ourselves immersed in the life world of Vietnam, and are likely to achieve a fuller appreciation of the modes and meanings of what it means to be Vietnamese, and what it means to be American.

We seek to understand the complex history, culture and social relations of Vietnam that are the foundations of contemporary Vietnam. We study the array of Vietnamese social institutions for signs of conflict, consensus, and change such as kinship and gender relations, rural village and urban life, religion, economy, education, and tribal and ethnic relations. We examine Vietnam’s legacy of conflict and colonialism, including the American/Vietnam war and its human social, political and environmental effects on the nation. We explore at how the Vietnamese are negotiating and seeking to reconcile and resolve the contradictions of socialist and capitalist theory and practice towards genuine rather than a fictive consensus, as they seek to improve the lives of all of the people, and position themselves as a significant Southeast Asian political and economic force. NOTE: Considerable travel around the country facilitate meeting Vietnamese and learning first-hand about historical and contemporary issues.

### **VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE FOR FOOD AND BUSINESS (up to 3 credits)**

Students will learn the basics of conversational Vietnamese to enable them to understand basic social interaction and navigate in their travels with some appreciation for and some familiarity with the language. The course will be taught by professors at Vietnamese Language Studies (VLS).



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