

History 394-0005 (90253), The Vietnam War, spring 2018
University of Southern Maine, Portland

Writing Assignment No. 2 - Instructions

Due dates:

- **Selection of option: 2:45 p.m., Tuesday**
- **Selection of work, topic or document: 2:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 3**
- **Submission of final copy: 2:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 17**

In this assignment, submit a 5-8 page paper based on one of the three options described below. If you have questions about the writing assignment, please feel free to contact the instructor.

The assignment is due two weeks before the last class session of the course.

Note: The instructions page for Writing Assignment No. 2 in the Assignments link of the course Blackboard site will close at the due time/date of the final copy.

Option 1: Review of a book or a movie on Vietnam

The list of books and movies on the Vietnam War is large and growing, and it includes almost every genre, from historical studies and documentaries to memoirs to works of fiction (both books and movies). For this option, select a work on the Vietnam War and write an analysis of it. In your review, be sure to discuss the overall structure of the work, two or three important points the author(s)/creator(s) make, and basic information on the creator(s), date of release, and producers. In particular, discuss what insights into the history of the Vietnam War the work offers.

It should be emphasized that you need not select a work that has been highly acclaimed. Works that turn out to be of low quality are equally valid candidates for review.

Note: The author and title of the book must be given to the instructor by class **Tuesday, April 3**, on the class attendance sheet or via email (chris.beam@maine.edu).

Option 2: Review of a document on Vietnam

This option is similar to Writing Assignment no. 1 – analyze a document relating to the Vietnam War. You may choose any document you wish (with the exception of *Aggression from the North*) and it may be one of those that have been assigned in the syllabus. The document may be a letter, a speech, a report, so long as it is a primary source.

Note: A description of the document must be given to the instructor by class **Tuesday, April 3**, on the class attendance sheet or via email (chris.beam@maine.edu).

Option 3: General research paper

Write a paper on a topic of your choice relating to Vietnam. The paper must be based on at least three sources -- two secondary and one primary source. For information on sources, consult the document Primary and Secondary Sources in the Course Information link of the course Blackboard site.

The topic must be approved by the instructor before class **Tuesday, June 13**, or via email (chris.beam@maine.edu).

If you have questions about the Writing Assignment, please feel free to contact the instructor.

Regardless of option, the paper must abide by the following:

- ▶ The technical quality of your paper – correct spelling and grammar, clarity of exposition, coherence of organization – will be given considerable weight in calculating the grade. Use the Spell and Grammar Check functions of the MS Word program. Then proof-read the paper – whether on the screen or in print is your preference. For guidance, refer to the Standards for Evaluating Written Work in the Course Information link of the course Blackboard site.
- ▶ In the case of Options 1 and 2, consultation of other sources is permitted -- so long as they are cited -- but is not required.
- ▶ A late paper must be excused ahead of time by the instructor.
- ▶ The paper must be typed, in 12 point Times Roman font, in MS Word, and double-spaced. Be sure your name is on the paper and include list of bibliographic sources.
- ▶ In addition to the 5-8 page write-up, a separate title page and citation list are required.