



Course VIET 2316.001 (Topics in Vietnamese Culture)
Professor Phuong Nguyen
Term Spring 2024
Class MW 10:00 – 11:15 AM, in classroom AD 3.216

Professor's Contact Information

Office Location JO 4.628
Email Address pxn230018@utdallas.edu

Office Hours By appointment

General Course Information

This is a course specifically designed for heritage speakers who, although exposed to Vietnamese-speaking communities or households, are not proficient in Vietnamese. Prerequisite: Vietnamese heritage speakers or instructor consent required.

Course Description

VIET 2316 provides an understanding of Vietnamese culture. The course closely examines how modern Vietnamese society and its culture were formed over the course of its history. Through discussing important historical, geographical, and social and political elements such as trading patterns, missionary activities, and wars, students will identify traits Vietnamese people share with other communities of wet-rice growers in Southeast Asia. It approaches national and personal identity by drawing on the character of Vietnam. This course 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.

Learning Outcomes

- To understand the everyday communication of the Vietnamese people.
- To have the ability to an understanding of the role Vietnamese food plays in the daily functional and spiritual context of society.
- To have the ability to demonstrate an understanding of the role Vietnamese food plays in the daily functional and spiritual context of society
- To develop an exploration of Vietnamese culture as a culture based on rural wet rice agriculture
- To understand the influence shared by language and culture.

Required Texts & Materials

Textbooks, guidelines, rubrics, assignments, exams, power points, study guides, and other class materials will be available on eLearning. **The materials for this course are not to be used outside of the context of this class, and may not be distributed.**

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. Students are responsible for all assignments, dates and policies contained in the syllabus. All matters associated with this course are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes will be communicated to students in writing. Assignments may be added to the syllabus on an ongoing basis. (Missing class does not excuse students from completing and turning in assignments on the due date).

Academic Calendar

Dates	Topics, assignments, and due dates
Week 1	
Wednesday	Read the syllabus, the assignment calendar and familiarize yourself with the course, professor and classmates.
Week 2	
Monday	Chapter 1
Wednesday	Chapter 1
Week 3	
Monday	Chapter 1
Wednesday	Chapter 2
Week 4	
Monday	Chapter 2
Wednesday	Chapter 2
Week 5	
Monday	Chapter 3
Wednesday	Chapter 3
Week 6	
Monday	Chapter 3
Wednesday	Project 1
Week 7	
Monday	Chapter 4
Wednesday	Chapter 4
Week 8	
Monday	Chapter 4
Wednesday	Chapter 4
Week 9: Spring Break	
Week 10	
Monday	Oral Presentation
Wednesday	Chapter 5
Week 11	
Monday	Chapter 5
Wednesday	Chapter 5
Week 12	
Monday	Project 2
Wednesday	Chapter 6
Week 13	
Monday	Chapter 6
Wednesday	Chapter 6
Week 14	
Monday	Chapter 7
Wednesday	Chapter 7
Week 15	
Monday	Chapter 7
Wednesday	Chapter 8
Week 16	

Monday	Chapter 8
Wednesday	Oral Exam

Grading (credit) Criteria

Homework	15%
Group Project (2)	30%
Oral Presentation	20%
Oral Exam	20%

Attendance	7.5%
Participation & Preparation	7.5%

Final Grade Levels

A+	97 – 100	C+	77 – 79
A	94 – 96	C	74 – 76
A-	90 – 93	C-	70 – 73
B+	87 – 89	D+	67 – 69
B	84 – 86	D	64 – 66
B-	80 – 83	D-	60 – 63
		F	59 and under

I will make use of the +/- system in grading as stipulated by the current University of Texas at Dallas Undergraduate Catalog.

Graded Categories

1. **Class attendance and participation:** Your grade will be affected by your attendance, participation, and preparation. Daily active participation means responding when called on, volunteering, group work, participating in exercises, and any other activity assigned by the instructor. Your participation and level of engagement in this class will affect the mastery of Vietnamese. I am interested both in the quantity and quality of your participation. Simply attending class does not guarantee a student a good participation grade. Tardiness is disrespectful to both your instructor and your peers. Please do not leave class early or ask to leave during class (except in cases of emergency and prearrangement). You are adults. Unless you have a medical problem, you should be able to sit through a 75-minute class without needing to leave.
2. **Homework and assignments** must be completed outside of class and by the assigned dates to receive full credit. You are allowed several attempts for each exercise. You are responsible for keeping up with assignments. Waiting until the night before an assignment is due and encountering a technical problem is not an excuse.
3. **Group Project:** There will be 2 group projects for the material covered. You will be given more instruction related to group projects later in class.
4. **Oral presentation:** There will be an oral presentation in week 10. The instructor will distribute a sign-up sheet during the sixth week of classes. You pick one of the topics. You must prepare a Power Point or Prezi to make your presentation more interesting, and make it easier for your classmates to follow what you are saying. At the end of the presentation, you should be ready to answer any questions your classmates may have. **Notes are allowed during the presentation, so you can remember what to say, but READING YOUR PRESENTATION (from the Power Point or the index cards) TO THE CLASS WILL BE PENALIZED.**
5. **Oral exam:** At the end of the semester, you will have a 7-minute interview with your professor about the topics covered during the semester. The interview will be graded based on a rubric that emphasizes your knowledge of the topics, the grammar and the vocabulary discussed in class. **THERE IS NO MAKEUP FOR THE ORAL EXAM.**

Course & Instructor Policies

Class Attendance

Since exposure to the target language is essential for successful language learning, **class attendance is mandatory**. **Three unexcused absences will lower your grade by 5%;** with each additional absence, your grade will be further lowered proportionately.

Tardiness is disrespectful to both your instructor and your peers. Arriving late to class will affect your daily participation grade in the course. Please do not leave class early or ask to leave during class

(except in cases of emergency). You are adults. Unless you have a medical problem, you should be able to sit through a 75-minute class without needing to leave.

Excused absences

As a general rule, no absence will be excused without proper documentation. Excused absences are limited to the following: school-sponsored activities, including fieldtrips and athletic events; religious observance; doctor's appointments and/or hospital stays. In the case of school activities or religious observance, the student must notify the instructor in writing in advance. In the case of fieldtrips, the student must provide a letter or email from the sponsoring department or professor(s) in advance. Athletes must provide a letter or e-mail signed by their coach and addressed to the instructor stating the reason for their absence and calendar of events. Please note that only UTD intercollegiate sports, not club or recreational sports are covered by this policy. In the case of illness, students must present a letter or note on letterhead or stationery from the physician to the instructor on the first class upon returning. The letter or note must contain contact information. This documentation must be original and not photocopied. Please note: I do not accept emails, letters from parents, etc. There are no exceptions to this policy.

In each case, the student must notify the instructor in writing in advance with proof of documentation. This documentation must be original and not photocopied. In the event of a family emergency, such as the hospitalization or death of an immediate family member, you must contact your instructor via email as soon as possible. Documentation (such as an obituary or service bulletin) may be requested. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of these absences on a case-by-case basis.

Make-ups

As a rule, **no absence or missing assignment will be excused without justification. No make-ups will be given without proof of documentation.**

Late Work

All work is due on the dates specified. No late work will be accepted in accordance with the policies outlined above. No exceptions Please do not ask me to deviate from this policy. If you do, I will simply say, "Refer to the syllabus," and I will consider the matter settled.

Written work

It is important to remember that, although I am always available and willing to be consulted prior to submission of assignments, you **cannot, under any circumstances, present your work as a draft and ask me to read and/or correct the entire draft or parts of it.** Also, **you are not allowed to use an online translator (Google Translate, etc.) or ask others to proofread your work** unless requested to do so by your instructor. As a rule, I must always be the first person to read your written work.

Please note that all of the following **are also unacceptable**: (1) **submitting someone else's text as your own**, (2) **attempting to blur the line between your own ideas or words and those borrowed from another source.** **Failing to comply with this policy will result in an automatic "F."** If you have any questions or concerns regarding these regulations, please consult me.

Oral Work

A student enrolling in a course should be able to spontaneously (without notes) answer familiar and basic questions during the oral exam. Therefore, **using notes will result in an automatic "F" (59).**

Confidentiality

The materials for this course are not to be used outside of the context of this class, and may not be distributed.

Personal Communication Devices

Unauthorized texting, **use of** laptops, MP3s, and other **personal communication devices is prohibited in the classroom**. If students are caught using any of these devices, it will be counted as absent for the day and/or the device will be confiscated. I take this matter very seriously, and I suggest you do too.

Classroom Manners

Students should stay on task at all times, which means paying attention, being prepared to respond when called on; it does not mean talking to classmates (except during group work), texting, reading emails, working on assignments for other classes, etc. **No exceptions**. Students are expected to remain in class and be seated, unless otherwise instructed. Students should take care of biological functions before or after class. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a “0” participation grade for the day.

Email and Course Communication

Students must use their UTD email account for all correspondence. Please be aware of the following:

- **No homework should be sent via email without prior approval.**
- Emails sent at night or on weekends may not be answered until the next class day.
- Failure to receive a reply does not constitute permission.

Please make sure your UTD email account is not full. Questions regarding language/grammar/usage should be addressed in class or in my office.

Student Accessibility

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Accessibility immediately, obtain the appropriate documentation, and send me the letter they provide—feel free to talk with me about how best to put those accommodations in motion over the semester.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: “As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do”.

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.



Academic Calendar

Dates	Topics		Lessons and Objectives
Week 1			
Wednesday 1/17	Course Introduction		Read the syllabus, calendar and familiarize yourself with the course, professor and classmates.
Week 2			
Monday 1/22	Chapter 1: Đất nước Việt Nam (The country of Vietnam)	1.1: Địa lý Việt Nam (The Geography of Vietnam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify terminologies in the field of geographyIdentify the geography of VietnamDiscuss and present the geography of a state or a country
Wednesday 1/24		1.2: Hà Nội (Hanoi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe architecture, attractions, and specialties of Hanoi, the capital of VietnamUnderstand the history of HanoiIntroduce a city or the capital of a state or country
Week 3			
Monday 1/29		1.3: Sông nước Phương Nam (Mekong River Delta)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify unique features of the villages in mekong river deltaDescribe floating marketsIntroduce a local uniqueness in a state or a country
Wednesday 1/31	Chapter 2: Ẩm thực ba miền (Three-region Cuisine)	2.1: Bữa ăn hàng ngày (Daily meals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify and learn about daily meals in VietnamCompare, discuss gastronomy and the cultural meaning of family dinner
Week 4			
Monday 2/5		2.2: Phở - Đặc sản Hà Nội (Phở - A Specialty of Hanoi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the cultural meaning of Phở as the Vietnamese traditional and iconic foodDiscuss, compare, and present the iconic cuisine of the world
Wednesday 2/7		2.3: Bia hơi với người Hà Nội (Draft beer with Hanoian)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the social activities (Drinking culture in Vietnam)Discuss, compare and debate about the cultures and norms around the world
Week 5			
Monday 2/12	Chapter 3: Du lịch (Travel and tourism)	3.1: Những điều cần biết khi du lịch ở Việt Nam (Vietnam travel guide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do and don't during traveling in VietnamTourist destination spots
Wednesday 2/14		3.2: Quán vỉa hè (Street food)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Traditional markets, street foods and nightlife activities of Saigonese and Hanoian people
Week 6			
Monday 2/19		3.3: Xích lô Hà Nội	<ul style="list-style-type: none">History of Hanoi cyclo



		(Cyclo in Hanoi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transportation and development in the urban life context
Wednesday 2/21	Project 1		Review chapters 1, 2, 3
Week 7			
Monday 2/26	Chapter 4: Văn hoá và phong tục (Culture and Traditions)	4.1: Gia đình Việt Nam (Vietnamese family)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss the role of each member in Vietnamese family, gender equalityDiscuss the pros and cons of each type of familyCompare the structure of Vietnamese traditional family to your ownExplain some common proverbs, idioms about family
Wednesday 2/28		4.2: Tên và cách đặt tên của người Việt (Names of Vietnamese and how they name their children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Distinguish three parts of Vietnamese names and functions of each part following paternalismIdentify most common family names and its reasons, the history of Vietnamese names, and the influence of other cultures on Vietnamese's nameExplain how Vietnamese children get their names, and why some Vietnamese people had an ugly name
Week 8			
Monday 3/4		4.3: Tục lệ cưới xin (Wedding customs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify and discuss the traditional perspectives of the Vietnamese about getting marriedCompare and contrast Vietnamese wedding to American wedding
Wednesday 3/6		4.4: Đám tang và Giỗ (Funeral ceremony and death anniversary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the perspectives of Vietnamese about worshipDescribe and explain death's anniversary of the VietnameseCompare how people in different culture commemorate their ancestors
Week 9			
3/11 – 3/17		SPRING BREAK	
Week 10			
Monday 3/18		Oral Presentation	



Wednesday 3/20	Chapter 5: Folktale and Vietnamese festival	5.1: Truyền thuyết con rồng cháu tiên (Legend of descendant of fairy and dragon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain the root of Vietnamese and 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam● Describe in detail how to make “Cơm lam”● Discuss the marriage of 2 main characters in the legend: Lạc Long Quân and Âu Cơ● Tell a legend regarding how a country, a nation or a race was created or formed
Week 11			
Monday 3/25		5.2: Tết Nguyên Đán (Vietnamese Lunar New Year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain the most important costumes of Tet (mừng tuổi, cúng giao thừa, đi hái lộc, xông nhà, mâm ngũ quả, 12 con giáp etc.)● Taboos on Vietnamese Lunar New Year● How Vietnamese celebrate Tet
Wednesday 3/27		5.3: Tết Trung Thu (Mid-Autumn Festival)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How Vietnamese people in the past vs. now celebrate Mid-autumn festival● Compare and contrast Vietnamese Tết Trung Thu to Chinese Mid-autumn festival
Week 12			
Monday 4/1	Project 2		Review chapters 4 & 5
Wednesday 4/3	Chapter 6: Nghệ thuật Việt Nam (Vietnamese arts and literature)	6.1: Múa rối nước (Water puppets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Describe water puppetry in Vietnam regarding stage, theme of kits, music making, etc.● Talk and discuss about a puppet performance● Introduce a traditional performance
Week 13			
Monday 4/8		6.2: Chèo (Popular theater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Identify stage terms● Describe traditional stage in term of plot, characters, performance● Talk and discuss about a stage performance
Wednesday 4/10		6.3: Tranh Việt Nam (Vietnamese painting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have an overview of Vietnamese traditional and modern painting● Describe the way to make a traditional painting● Talk and discuss about the role of painting in life
Week 14			
Monday 4/15	Chapter 7: Xã hội Việt Nam (Vietnamese society)	7.1: Người cao tuổi Việt Nam trong thiên niên kỷ mới (Vietnamese elderly in the new millennium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Identify old standard populations● The standard population of Vietnam and Asian countries● Talk and discuss about old people support system in Vietnam
Wednesday 4/17		7.2: Vai trò của đàn ông và phụ nữ trong gia đình Việt Nam (Gender roles in Vietnamese family)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Describe roles of men and women in Vietnamese● traditional families vs. now● Discuss and debate opinions to promote gender equality
Week 15			



Monday 4/22		7.3: Người Mỹ gốc Việt (American Vietnamese)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinguish the 1st and 2nd generation Vietnamese American• Refugees waves: Hardships and risks when fled to the US• Acknowledge Vietnamese American achievements
Wednesday 4/24	Chapter 8: Những vấn đề đương thời (Contemporary issue - Socioeconomic development)	8.1: Sự phát triển kinh tế Việt Nam (Vietnam economic development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The historical period of economic development in Vietnam (Đổi mới, đầu tư, hội nhập, toàn cầu hoá)• Discuss and debate on economic development and environment issues
Week 16			
Monday 4/29		8.2: Giáo dục và nghề nghiệp (Education and job market)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debate and compare different the different between Vietnam and US education system• Discuss and present about job market in Vietnam
Wednesday 5/01	Oral Exam		Review chapters 1 - 8