ARCH DALRYMPLE III
DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY

WINTER
INTERSESSION 2020

COURSES
HST 490-1:
The U.S. War in Vietnam
Professor: Rebecca Marchiel
rkmarchi@olemiss.edu
Class Hours: MTWThF 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Classroom: Bishop 101

Course Description:
This course will take a long (but quick) view to understand the U.S. war in Vietnam. We will explore Vietnamese nationalism and anti-colonialism coming out of WWI as well as U.S. policy priorities in the region. We will analyze the geopolitics of the Cold War to make sense of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. And we will dig deeper into aspects of the war that often appear in American culture—the experience of guerilla warfare, the impact of weapons like Agent Orange, the My Lai massacre, the antiwar movement, and more. At the same time, we will explore exciting scholarship that illuminates sometimes surprising historical contexts, such as the role of gender and religion in shaping the worldviews of U.S. diplomats, the class dynamics of the draft, and the role of the war’s memory in late twentieth century politics. Along the way, we will use historical habits of mind that are important to any study of history. We will consider causation, contingency, the interplay of structure and agency, and constructions of unequal power relations in order to analyze the U.S. war in Vietnam. To develop mastery of historical thinking, students will participate in class discussion, complete in-class writing assignments and activities, keep a peer journal, and write a final take-home exam.

Instructor Bio:
Rebecca Marchiel has been on faculty at UM since the fall of 2015. Her first book, After Redlining: The Urban Reinvestment Movement in the Era of Financial Deregulation, comes out in August. She is from Michigan and enjoys knitting. She has two tiny kids and a dog named Wilma.
Course Description:
Today, millions around the world enjoy music born and bred in the American South. This course examines the major genres of southern music, proceeding quasi-chronologically from the antebellum era to the late twentieth century. Over two weeks, students will go on a rollicking tour of the places and spaces that birthed slave songs, gospel, the blues, jazz, hillbilly/country, rock n’ roll, soul/R&B, southern rock, and southern rap. At home and in class, students will listen to numerous samples from each genre, using the musical and lyrical contents to understand how specific songs, artists, and performances fit into or reaffirmed—or challenged or even changed—the social, cultural, and political arrangements of the South and broader nation and world.

Instructor Bio:
Darren E. Grem is Associate Professor of History and Southern Studies. He is the author of The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity (Oxford University Press, 2016) and a co-editor of two volumes about religion and culture. A South Carolinian by birth, Georgia Bulldog by choice, and Mississippian by paycheck, he enjoys jogging and catching shows at Proud Larry’s when he’s not planning lectures and helping out your writing and historical thinking.