Indochina, composing of Laos, Cambodia, and Viet Nam was a colonial construction that brought together peoples from different cultures but connected through history of struggles. More recently, the so-called “Viet Nam War” further bound the three countries, this time, as participants in the Cold War – igniting regional differences – and subsequently linked them as a unit consisting of refugees and immigrants in the United States and elsewhere. This class starts from a critical point of understanding that individuals and communities from these countries represent complex and diverse populations. We explore the “Viet Nam War” as concept to offer a more wide reaching yet inclusive perspective, including shared experiences in diaspora. Ultimately this class challenges dominant “Viet Nam War” narratives and present a more in-depth understanding of peoples from Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos and their populations overseas.

Questions? Email Prof. Valverde at cvalverde@ucdavis.edu.