

War and Reconstruction in Iraq [NEJS 195b]

A limited enrolment course given in the Spring of 2007 requiring instructor's permission. In addition to regular class hours on Tuesday, 1:30-4:30pm, students are expected to view a number of films outside of class. The time and place of film viewing sessions will be determined after the first day of classes.

Meetings: Tuesday and Friday, 10:30-12:00. Office Hours: Friday: 12:00-2:00 pm

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Course Description:

The course examines the aftermath of the 2003 war in Iraq. Issues of origin, legitimacy, and the nature of the outgoing regime are looked at against the backdrop of enormous social upheaval and the politics of occupation, democratization, constitutionalism, sectarianism, remembrance and insurgency.

The course meets in a lecture and discussion format. The reading listed under each week will be discussed the following week. Articles may be added to the reading from time to time.

Requirements

(1) Regular class attendance, doing the reading, watching all required films, and participation in class. Assigned reading must be completed before class. During the semester, each student is expected to make at least two 15 minute presentations, and lead the class discussion that follows. All students are expected to view, and discuss in class, the films listed below.

(25% of final grade)

(2) Each student is expected to submit ten weekly 400-500 word commentaries in e-mail form on the reading, the films and/or on written class assignments handed out in class. These must discuss and/or 'construct' questions/comments derived from the course material. Think of these pages as your own running commentary on the reading and the films. Keep a copy. I will want to see these again, grouped in chronological sequence, and properly formatted at the end of the semester. They should never be merely an outpouring of your feelings and/or opinions. I must receive your comments no later than 9:00am on Monday in order for them to form the basis of class discussion the following Tuesday. Always identify yourself, the date of the class during which they will be discussed, and the readings being discussed at the outset (include e-mail and a telephone number). The weekly comments are not individually graded. But students lose grades by doing them sloppily or not submitting them. There is no point to a late submission. This requirement cannot be made up at a later date.

(35% of final grade)

(3) Each student must write a 20 page carefully worded paper on a theme derived from the course syllabus.

Concept, preliminary outline & bibliography due: March 13;

Detailed outline and writing sample due: April 10;

Final Paper due: May 1.

(25% of final grade)

(4) There will be two half-hour written exams in class during week 5 and week 8 as indicated in the syllabus.

(15% of grade)

Note: If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you, please see the instructors immediately after class.

Syllabus: Spring 2007

Week One starting Tues, Jan. 16: Introduction

Readings:

Sluglett, *Iraq Since 1958*, chapters 1-4, pp 1-106

Week Two starting Tues, Jan.23: Formation of the State

Readings:

Sluglett, *Iraq Since 1958*, chapter 5-8

Week Three starting Tues, Jan.30: Monarchy to Republic

Readings:

Sluglett, *Iraq Since 1958*, chapter 9, pp. 281-307

Makiya, *Republic of Fear*, chapters 5-8, pp 3-146

Film: Bhaman Ghobad, *Marooned in Iraq*, 2002

Week Four starting Feb 6: The 1968 Ba'th Regime

Readings:

Makiya, *Republic of Fear*, 'Introduction,' pp ix-xxiii and chapters 1-4, pp 3-146

Film: Bhaman Ghobad, *Turtles Can Fly*, 2004

Week Five starting Feb 13: The First Gulf War in 1991

Exam 1: On the whole of the Sluglett Book

Readings:

Makiya, *Cruelty and Silence*, chapters 1-5, pp.

Packer, *The Assassins' Gate*, chapters 1-4, pp 3-149.

Turi Munthe, ed., *The Saddam Hussein Reader: Selected Writings*, Thunders Mouth Press, 2002

Film: Gwynne Roberts, *Saddam's Killing Fields*, 1992, Reported by K Makiya

Week Six starting Feb 27: 9/11 & the Case For War

Readings:

Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom*, pp 13-27, 119-159, 257-264.

Makiya, "Arab Demons, Arab Dreams: 1967-2003," in Packer, ed., *The Fight Is For Democracy*, pp 139-163.

Film: M Smith, *Truth, War & Consequences*, a film for PBS Frontline

Week Seven starting Mar 6: War and Occupation

Readings:

"Saddam's Delusions," A Special Report in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006 issue, pp. 2-28. James Baker, Lee Hamilton, and others, *The Iraq Study Group Report*, 2006

Diamond, *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq*, chapters 5-6, 10-11, pp 103-179, 279-335.

Text of the new permanent Iraqi Constitution

Week Eight starting Mar 13: Student Presentations.

Paper Topics and Outlines for final paper due on March 13.

Exam 2: On Makiya, Cushman and Diamond Books

Reading:

Diamond, *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq*

Week Nine starting Mar 20: Failures of Nation-Building

Readings:

George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate*, chapters 8-10, pp 251-369.

Week Ten starting Mar 27: The Iraqi Insurgency

Reading:

George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate*, chapters 11-12 & Epilogue, pp 370-452.

Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq*, Pantheon, 2006

Film: Frontline, *The [Iraqi] Insurgency*, 2005

Week Eleven starting Apr 10: The Way Forward?

Readings:

James Baker, Lee Hamilton, and others, *The Iraq Study Group Report*, 2006

Makiya, *Cruelty & Silence*, chapter 6 & 'Whither Iraq?' pp 200-252.

Week Twelve starting Apr 17: From Insurgency to Civil War?

Draft Final Paper due on April 10.

No Reading

Week Thirteen starting Apr 24: Conclusion

Final Papers Due on Tuesday, May 1

Course Material

Required books, listed below, are to be read from cover to cover by course end:

Required Books:

Peter Sluglett and Marion Farouk-Sluglett, *Iraq Since 1958: From Revolution to Dictatorship*, 2001

Kanan Makiya, *Republic of Fear: The Politics of Modern Iraq* (UC Press, 1006)

George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq*, Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2005

Larry Diamond, *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq*, Times Books, 2005.

Required Films:

Students are required to watch and be prepared to discuss in class the listed films. There may be a time scheduled for the airing of these films outside of regular class hours. Otherwise they will have to be borrowed from the library.

- Gwynne Roberts, *Saddam's Killing Fields*, 1992, Reported by K Makiya
- Bhaman Ghobad, *Marooned in Iraq*, 2002
- Bhaman Ghobad, *Turtles Can Fly*, 2004
- Martin Smith (Frontline), *Truth, War and Consequences*, 2005
- Frontline, *The [Iraqi] Insurgency*, 2005

Other Reading:

Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*, WW North & Company, 2004

Yitzhak Nakash, *The Shi'is of Iraq*, Princeton University Press, 2003

Kanan Makiya, *Cruelty and Silence: War, Tyranny, Uprising and the Modern Arab World* (W.W. Norton, 1993)

Turi Munthe, ed., *The Saddam Hussein Reader: Selected Writings*, Thunders Mouth Press, 2002

Paul Bremer, *My Year in Iraq*, Threshold Editions, 2006.

"Saddam's Delusions," in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006 issue. James Baker, Lee Hamilton, and others, *The Iraq Study Group Report*, 2006

Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq*, Pantheon, 2006

Thomas Cushman, ed., *Humanitarian Arguments for War in Iraq*, University of California Press, 2005.

Gary Rosen, *The Right War? The Conservative Debate on Iraq*, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Francis Fukuyama, ed., *Nation-Building: Beyond Afghanistan and Iraq*, Johns Hopkins (2006)

David Phillips, *Losing Iraq: Inside the Postwar Reconstruction Fiasco*, Westview Press, 2005

Noah Feldman, *What We Owe Iraq*, Princeton University Press, 2004

Mark Danner, *Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror*, New York Review Books, 2004

Susan Sontag, "Regarding the Torture of Others," *The New York Times*, May 23, 2004

Anthony Shadid, *Night Draws Near*, Henry Holt, 2005.

Fuad Ajami, "Heart of Darkness," *WSJ*, September 28, 2005.