COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents a historical assessment of the United States’ war in Iraq from 2003 to 2011. Topics to be covered include US-Iraqi relations from WWI through the Gulf War, the US containment of Iraq, the march to war, the plan of attack, the invasion and combat operations, losing the victory, life in the Green Zone, torture and abuse, the US military experience of the war, the insurgency, sectarian violence, terrorism, counterterrorism, elections and democracy, reassessment, the surge, the drawdown, the end of the war, and the aftermath of the war. The course will conclude with an evaluation of the war’s effectiveness regarding the GWOT and US foreign policy objectives in Iraq. Was this war of choice a disaster of epic proportions that only further destabilized a highly volatile region and created a new front in the GWOT, or will the procedural democracy the U.S. left behind in Iraq survive to become a substantive one providing justification of the U.S. intervention and further democracy building in the Middle East?

GOALS

- Master a body of historical knowledge pertaining to the U.S. War in Iraq
- Learn to analyze primary documents historically and to evaluate secondary texts critically
- Develop higher levels of historical writing, thinking, and conceptualization skills
- Interpret the relationship between politicized ideologies and their militarized responses

TEXTS


All the books are required and can be purchased or rented at the campus bookstore or on-line. They are also available to be checked out in 2-hour blocks at the Olin Library reserve desk.

Required articles and video clips are available on Ares and Blackboard (see below).
ASSIGNMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION

There will be three major writing assignments and an attendance/participation component for this course. The writing assignments will be 6-8 pages each, and consist of three take-home essays, each with a choice of questions (30% each). There is no final exam for this course. All the assignments will be posted to Blackboard ahead of time (see Course Schedule below). The participation component involves regular class attendance and participation (10%). Attendance sheets will be passed out randomly to insure regular attendance. Missing more than two class periods will adversely affect your final grade, which will be calculated on a 100 point scale as follows: 98-100 = A+, 93-97 = A, 90-92 = A−; 88-89 = B+, 83-87 = B, 80-82 = B−; 78-79 = C+, 73-77 = C, 70-72 = C−; 68-69 = D+, 63-67 = D, 60-62 = D−; 59↓ = F. There is no pass/fail option for this course.

LATE POLICIES

All written work must be turned in on time. Only hardcopies will be accepted. Please note that late papers will be reduced by one-third grade point for each day they are late! For instance, a paper that earned a B− but was turned in one day late would automatically drop to a B; two days, B−, etc. All written work must also conform to the standards of college essay writing (see the College Essay Guidelines on Blackboard). Extensions will be granted only for religious holidays, official Wash U varsity sporting events, documented job and graduate school interviews, and extreme emergencies such as grave illness or a death in the family. When possible, please bring all cases to my attention immediately.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & PLAGIARISM

*To plagiarize* is defined as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own” (*Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, 898). This includes but is not limited to submitting someone else’s work (in whole, part or paraphrase) as one’s own without fully and properly crediting the author (intentionally or otherwise); submitting as one’s original work materials obtained from an individual or agency; and/or submitting as one’s own original work material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others.

*“Cyber cheating” is also a form of plagiarism.* It includes cutting and pasting someone else’s web work and submitting it as your own; downloading essays, papers, speeches etc. from the web and turning them in as your own; and buying essays, papers, speeches etc. from the web and turning them in as your own (http://www.lib.umb.edu/webtutorial/module6/Module6-1.html).

Plagiarism is absolutely forbidden. It is the worst form of academic cheating. Its violation is taken very seriously. Plagiarizers will be punished accordingly. Punishment ranges from automatic failure of the assignment and failing the course to various levels of official university sanctions, including suspension and even expulsion. If in any doubt, students should review the Academic Integrity Policy that they signed upon entering the University, and recall that Washington University has a “three-strikes-and-you’re-out” policy.
BLACKBOARD

Blackboard is the Washington University web-based course management system. You can reach Blackboard at https://bb.wustl.edu or through WebSTAC at https://acadinfo.wustl.edu. You will need your WUSLT KEY to access it. Once you are logged on, find HIST 3681. Click on it and go to the various options. The Blackboard page for this course is meant to be used exclusively by its members. You should check it regularly. All up-to-date information will be posted there including the syllabus, course schedule, writing assignments, readings, video clips, maps, course resources, a discussion group, and other useful links. Questions meant for my exclusive attention should be sent to my e-mail.

AUTOMATING RESERVES

Automating Reserves (Ares) is the Washington University electronic system used for scanned articles and copies of other readings. A number of required readings have been uploaded to the Ares page for this course. To download them, go the Washington University Library Home Page, click on Reserves, click on Search Ares (students), and enter your WUSTL KEY. Final access requires a password. The password for this course is “Iraq.”

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are for you. You are strongly encouraged to come to them to discuss the course material and when you have questions. A good deal of learning and confidence-building occurs during one-on-one conversation with the professor. If you cannot make the designated office hours, contact me to schedule an appointment.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who need disability-related accommodations (learning and physical) are encouraged to meet and work with Libby Lessentine, the Academic Services Coordinator (ext. 5-4062, elessentine@wustl.edu). Her office is located in the Center of Advanced Learning in Cornerstone in the South 40. I will do everything I can to accommodate your needs as well.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students will be given the opportunity at the end of this course to evaluate it, the content, and the instructor and teaching assistants. To do so, go to http://evals.wustl.edu. The College of Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis strongly recommends that you fill out and submit a course evaluation. So, too, does your professor and teaching assistants.

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

If you plan to apply for a U.S. gov’t position requiring a security clearance, do NOT read any classified documents that have been made available to the public by WikiLeaks, etc. or links to/from it, as they are still classified and require special clearance to read. During your application process, you may be asked about having ever read any classified document.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

GG = Guardians of the Gulf
F = Fiasco
ILEC = Imperial Life in the Emerald City
TT = Torture and Truth
BD = Beyond Duty
G = The Gamble
BBGB = Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog
BB = Blackboard Reading (+V = Video Clip)
AR = Automating Reserves/Ares [password = Iraq]

Aug. 29: Course Introduction: Syllabus, Schedule, and Major Themes & Topics

PRELUDE: GUARDIANS OF THE GULF


GG, all
AR, Peace Accord between Egypt and Israel, 1977-1979

PART ONE: DRUM BEATS ALONG THE POTOMAC

Sept. 12 & 14: The Enduring Menace of Saddam Hussein: Containing Iraq during the 1990s

F, Chaps 1 & 2
BBV, Pres. Clinton, Televised Address to the Nation on Desert Fox, Dec. 16, 1998

Sept. 19, 21 & 26: The March to War, 2001-2003

F, Chaps 3-6
BB, Pres. Bush, West Point Speech, June 1, 2002
BB, Vice Pres. Cheney, Speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Aug. 26, 2002
BBV, Pres. Bush, Address to the UN General Assembly, Sept. 12, 2002
BB, Sen. McCain, Use of Armed Forces Against Iraq, Oct. 2, 2002
BBV, Sec. of State Powell’s Presentation to the United Nations on Iraq’s WMD, Feb. 5, 2003
BBV, Pres. Bush, Televised Address to the Nation, 48-hour Warning to Iraq, Mar. 17, 2003
Sept. 28: Mission Accomplished: The 500-Hour War, Mar. 20 - Apr. 9, 2003

F, pp. 115-135

Essay One Posted to Blackboard

PART TWO: LOSING THE VICTORY


BBV, Frontline, “Bush’s War,” Widespread Looting Escalates in Iraq, Meeting the Enemy


F, Chap 10
ILEC, all
BB, Coalition Provisional Authority, Order Numbers 1 & 2, May 16 & 23, 2003
BBV, Frontline, “Bush’s War,” Things Seem be Spinning Out of Control, Rumsfeld Appoints Paul Bremer, and Bremer’s De-Bathification Order

Essay One Due (Oct. 10)


F, pp. 197-200, 238-40, Chap 12 & pp. 378-80
TT, pp. 108-166, Appendix II w/pics, and pp. 279-328
BBV, Frontline, “The Torture Question” (2005), all


BD, all
BB, Kirsten Holmstedt, Band of Sisters (2007), Intro., Chaps. 2, 5 & 6, and Epilogue
BBV, All the videos in “Red Zone: US Military Experience, 2003-06,” Video Clips folder

Essay Two Posted to Blackboard (Oct. 26)
PART THREE: TURNING THE TIDE?

Nov. 2: Elections and Democracy in Iraq, 2003-2006

BB, Al Jazeera, “Timeline: Iraqi Elections”
BB, Melani Cammett, “Democracy in Post-Invasion Iraq”
BBGB, 241-286, rest recommended but opt’l
BBV, “Reality of Iraq War” (2010)

Nov. 7 & 9: Counterterrorism in Iraq, 2003-2007

F, pp. 367-370
AR, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, My Share of the Task, Chaps 12 & 13
BBV, Interview with Gen. Stanley McChrystal on targeting al-Zarqawi and his network, 2012

Essay Two Due (Nov. 7)


G, Chaps 2-10 and Appendices A & D
BB, The Iraq Study Group Report, Dec. 6, 2006, Executive Summary & Recommendations
BB, AEI Report, “Choosing Victory,” Executive Summary, Introduction, & Conclusion
BB, MNF-I, Charts to Accompany Gen. Petraeus’s Testimony to Congress, Apr. 8-9, 2008
BBV, Frontline, “Endgame” (2007): Late 2006 and Endgame

Nov. 30: The Drawdown and the End of the War, 2009-2011

G, Chaps 11 & 12
BBV, Pres. Obama’s Speech to Marines at Camp Lejeune NC, Feb. 27, 2009
BBV, Pres. Obama’s Address on the End of the Combat Mission in Iraq, Aug. 31, 2010

Essay Three Posted to Blackboard
POSTLUDE: BETWEEN IRAQ AND A HARD PLACE

Dec. 5 & 7: Aftermath and Assessment, 2011+

AR, Marguerite Bouvard, *The Invisible Wounds of War*, Intro., Chaps 2, 5 & 6, and Epilogue
BBV, Frontline, “The Wounded Platoon” (2010), all

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Dec. 11: Essay Three Due (Hardcopy, in my mailbox, Busch 116, by Noon)