IRAQ: ONE YEAR LATER

Syllabus

RCIDIV 350 Section 2   Credits: 1   Grading: CR/NC  
Dates: 3/9 – 4/20   Time: Tuesdays 7-9 PM  
Location 126 East Quad  
Instructors: Helen Fox, Max Heirich, Tom O’Donnell and faculty  
COURSE WEBSITE: [http://www.umich.edu/~twod/iraq](http://www.umich.edu/~twod/iraq)  
Burning Questions: hfox@umich.edu

Required Reading (Available at Shaman Drum).


Requirements for CREDIT: (Materials are due 5PM April 22 in the RC faculty lounge)

1. Your notes from five out of the seven sessions, including the Q&A periods. There’s no need to rewrite them.

2. One 7-10 page paper, typed and double-spaced: “What I Now Think About US Involvement in Iraq – And Why.” The paper should use ideas and quotations from your notes and readings as well as your own opinion.

   - Please use clear, direct, personal language (“I think…”)
   - Give reasons for your opinions
   - Citations should be simple but accurate, e.g. “According to O’Donnell (Session 4),” “Smyth claims …”(Iraq War Reader, p.566).
   - No bibliography is required.

Session 1  March 9  Where are we now and how did we get here?

The story of the events over the past year and a half that led the U.S. into the war, and the current state of evidence regarding the administration’s claims for why the war was necessary.

**READING:** Hiro: *Secrets and Lies*. (We recommend that you read as much of the book as you can before the course begins. It provides excellent background, and has a distinct point of view on why and how the events unfolded).

**FACULTY/SPEAKERS:**

- Helen Fox (RC),  
- Charlie Bright (RC, History).

**Respondent:** Justin Shubow (Graduate Student, Philosophy),  
Format: Intro to the course (Fox) 20 minutes; Bright (45 minutes); Shubow (15 minutes)  
Q&A from students: 30 minutes
Session 2 March 16 What have been the war’s effects on Iraq and the surrounding “neighborhood”?
What do the various Iraqi constituencies think and feel about the war? What have they gained and/or lost? What are their plans and hopes for the future? How are other countries in the region affected?


FACULTY/SPEAKERS:
Tom Abowd (Wayne State, Anthropology);
Najeeb Jan (Graduate Student, History).
Format: Panel. Each presenter has 30-35 minutes. Q&A from students: 35 minutes

Session 3 March 23 What has been the impact of the war on the U.S.?
What are the economic and political effects of the war on the U.S. in general and on various U.S. constituencies?


FACULTY/SPEAKERS:
Tom Weisskopf (RC, Economics),
Mary Bejian (Washtenaw ACLU),
Honorable JoAnne Watson (Member, Detroit City Council, UM graduate)
Ishmael Ahmed (Director, ACCESS, Dearborn).
Format: Panel: Each presenter has 20 minutes. Q&A from students: 30 minutes.

Session 4 March 30 How do we evaluate other claims about the underlying motivation for the war? Part 1: The larger geopolitics of oil.


FACULTY/SPEAKERS:
Tom O’Donnell (Physicist, RC faculty, Respondent: Frank Thompson (RC, Economics).
Format: O’Donnell (60 minutes). Thompson (15 minutes) Q&A from students: 35 minutes.
Session 5   April 6   How do we evaluate other claims about the underlying motivation for the war? Part 2: Empire
Ways of seeing the idea of pre-emptive war, the new-conservative position papers on the new strategy for international relations; and the increasing global dominance of the U.S.


FACULTY/SPEAKERS:
Marilyn Young (Professor of History, New York University),
Respondent: Steve Darwall (Director, Honors Program; Philosophy).
Format: Young (60 minutes); Darwall (15 minutes); Q&A from students (35 minutes).

Session 6   April 13   Exit? And Then What?
What might happen in the region as a result of the war? How might various scenarios affect U.S. and world security? Proposed exit strategies, alternative policy options, wildcards.


FACULTY/SPEAKERS:
Lawrence Pintak (Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism),
Craig Regester (RC alum; RC Staff),
Respondent: Michael Kennedy (Director, International Institute).
Format: Pintak (30 minutes); Regester (30 minutes) Kennedy (15 minutes). Q&A from students: 35 minutes.

Session 7   April 20   Open Topic depending on current events and student needs and interests.