

**Why War On Iraq?**  
**RCIDIV 350.004 Winter, 2003**  
**A one-credit minicourse**  
**Weds. 7-9PM March 5-April 16**  
**126 East Quad**

**Faculty/Staff: Charles Bright, Helen Fox, Craig Register,  
Tom Weisskopf, Susan Wright, and guest speakers**

**Discussion facilitators: Christine Sauve, Emily Kearns,  
Emily Russell, faculty/staff**

**Minicourse facilitator: Helen Fox [hfox@umich.edu](mailto:hfox@umich.edu)**

**Required texts:**

\* **Dilip Hiro: *Iraq: In the Eye of the Storm* (available at Shaman Drum):**

\* **On-line articles for each session available on CourseTools**

**<https://coursetools.ummich.edu/2003/winter/rcidiv/350/004.nsf>**

**Requirements for students:**

This is a Credit/No Credit course. To obtain credit, students must attend five out of the seven sessions, keep notes and questions on each of the sessions attended, and submit these notes along with a 5-7 page reflective piece (“How my views on the Iraq crisis have been changed or strengthened through this course”) at the end of the term.

The format for each session is a 45-minute presentation by faculty/staff, followed by small group discussions on the topic for the week. Attendance will be taken in the discussion groups. Students are also strongly encouraged to participate in on-line discussions of each session on CourseTools.

**Introduction**

By the opening session of this minicourse, either the United States will have entered into a war against Iraq, or the rush to war will have been stalled or stopped completely by growing opposition in the international community and at home. In either event, understanding the geopolitical, legal, and humanitarian issues associated with war against Iraq is essential for developing an informed position. This series of seven lectures and discussions encompass the events since the attacks of September 11, 2001 that brought the United States to the brink of war, Iraq’s history and relations with other Middle Eastern states and with the United States, the history of the disarmament of Iraq after the Gulf War, the debate on the threat posed by Iraq, the domestic and international impacts of war, and the continuing global debate about responding to this evolving crisis.

**Session 1 March 5 *Overview: What's Happened Since September 11?*** A review of the twists and turns in the Bush administration's policy on Iraq since 9/11; responses from Congress, the UN, the American public, various peace movements.

Texts: Hiro: Iraq in the Eye of the Storm

NYTimes: A New Power in the Streets

NYTimes: Antiwar Rallies Raise a Chorus Across Europe

NYTimes: Antiwar Protests Fail to Sway Bush

NYTimes: The President and the Protesters

The Weekly Standard: The U.N. Trap?

ZMagazine: Scheduling War

ZMagazine: Don't Mention the War in Afghanistan

Faculty/Staff: Register, Fox.

**Session 2 March 12 *Is Iraq a Threat? If so, to whom?*** The UN inspections, the sanctions, weapons of mass destruction, Al Qaeda; the concept of a "rogue regime."

Texts: Hiro: Iraq in the Eye of the Storm Ch. 6, 9

Saikal: The Coercive Disarmament of Iraq

Gordon: Cool War: Economic Sanctions as a Weapon of Mass Destruction.

Falk: A Dangerous Game.

Documents: UN Security Council Resolutions 687, 1284, 1441.

Faculty: Wright

**Session 3 March 19 *The Formation of Saddam Hussein.*** The political history of the Baath regime; internal dynamics of Iraqi peoples and cultures.

Text: Hiro: Iraq in the Eye of the Storm

Guest speaker: Juan Cole (U-M History faculty)

**Session 4 March 26 *American Global Policy in Historical Perspective: Motives, Means, and Meanings.*** Oil, empire, terrorism, democratization, crusade?

Texts: The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, Sept, 2002.

Faculty: Bright

**Session 5 April 2 *Consequences of the Crisis.*** Regional and international dimensions: Israel/Palestine, Iran, Kurds, Turkey, North Korea, others.

Texts: TBA

Guest Speaker: Prasad Venugopal (Metro Detroiters Against the Sanctions)

**Session 6 April 9 *Domestic Impacts.*** Civil liberties, effects on U.S. minorities and the economy.

Texts: Nordhaus: Iraq: The Economic Consequences of War.

Guest Speaker: Michael Steinberg, Michigan ACLU

Faculty: Weisskopf

**Session 7 April 16 *What's Next?*** How should we respond – politically and/or personally – to the world situation as it is now?

Texts: TBA

Faculty: Fox

Guest Speakers: TBA

Instructions for using CourseTools:

1. Type in, then save in Favorites:  
<https://coursetools.ummich.edu/2003/winter/rcidiv/350/004.nsf>
2. You'll be asked to sign in. If you're not registered for the course, you may access the readings from this page, no sign-in required (look below Course Description).
3. Click on Announcements (in case there is one)
4. Click on Assignments. Here you'll find the on-line texts for each night. (You can click on Schedule if you want the topics and readings for the entire course.)
5. After each session, click on Discussions and find the current session. Read other students' responses. **CLICK RESPOND**. Type in a paragraph or two. You can post it to the whole group (the group of all students registered for the course plus the RC faculty and student facilitators) or respond to a particular individual. One quirk about CourseTools: if you work too long on a response (either typing or thinking) you won't be able to post it! So if you have a long response or just like to think as you type, work it out on a MS word document, then cut and paste. You can revise (click Edit) your response before you send it. Be sure to click Send before you logout. You might want to check the discussion several times during the week to see what others have said and add more of your own responses.