

WWS 555D: THE IRAQ WAR

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08/05

This seminar will address Iraq and America's role in the war there, with a focus on future policy options. But it will, of necessity, also consider the history of Iraq and its place in American foreign policy before the George W. Bush presidency, as well as broader questions of weapons nonproliferation and the global war on terror.

The course will have three main components. They will deal in turn with Iraq's history, the decision to invade and ensuing overthrow of the Baathist regime, and the occupation/stabilization phase since Saddam was deposed. There will be a heavy emphasis on future American policy options.

Each week will feature about 200 pages of reading, typically but not always from a single book. Class will include a presentation by the professor, general discussion about the week's topic, and—at certain points in the semester—short presentations by students. Grading will involve a take-home midterm, a final research paper, and class participation.

SYLLABUS

Part I: Iraq's Modern History

1. Kanan Makiya, *Republic of Fear*
2. Kenneth Pollack, *The Threatening Storm*

Part II: The Decision to Invade and the Overthrow of Saddam

3. Bush administration Documents and Speeches:

- National Security Strategy of the US (www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html)
- September 20, 2001 Speech to Congress (www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010920-8.html)
- January 2002 State of Union Address (whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html)
- October 2002 Cincinnati Speech (whitehouse.gov/news/releases/10/20021007-8.html)
- VP Cheney speech to VFW Convention, August 2002 (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/08/20020826.html>)

4. Bob Woodward, *Plan of Attack*
5. Philip Gordon and Jeremy Shapiro, *Allies at War*
6. Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, *Cobra II*
7. MIDTERM

Part III: The Stabilization Effort

8. and 9. George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq*
10. Paul Bremer, *My Year in Iraq*
11. Tom Ricks, *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq* (part II)
12. to be determined (articles based on the state of play in the fall of 2006)

Other Recommended Readings

Hans Blix, *Disarming Iraq*

Richard Butler, *The Greatest Threat*

Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay, *America Unbound*

Larry Diamond, *Squandered Victory*

Nathaniel Fick, *One Bullet Away*

Lawrence Kaplan and William Kristol, *The War Over Iraq*

Paul Pillar, *Terrorism and American Foreign Policy*

Ken Pollack, *A Switch in Time*

Stephen Walt, *Taming American Power*

Bing West, *No True Glory*