

# **Topics in Comparative Politics: Iraq: Politics & Society**

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Office Hours: Thursday 12:30 – 1:30 and by appointment

CPO 4930-U1

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Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

PC 213

## **Course Description**

This course examines the background to current events in Iraq. Surveys the development of politics and society in Iraq over the past century. Students will be prepared to better comprehend the complexity of politics and society in this important Middle Eastern country.

## **Learning Outcomes**

This course seeks to give students the background knowledge about the development of politics and society in Iraq over the past century. Students will explore the legacies of the British mandate and monarchy periods. Students will trace the development of authoritarianism in the country. Studies will compare varying competing visions of nationalism. Students will investigate the decisions leading up the 2003 invasion and its immediate aftermath. Students will then be asked to think critically about these developments and their impact on current events. Students will be challenged in this endeavor through readings, videos, and discussions on current events.

## **Required Texts**

Charles Tripp, *A History of Iraq* 3rd Edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007) ISBN 9780521702478.

Riverbend, *Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq* (New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2005) ISBN 9781558614895.

Another book length reading will be assigned, TBA.

Other readings will be posted in WebCT.

## **Policies**

*Attendance policy: Class attendance is required for all students. Students are permitted four (4) absences without penalty. However, a fifth absence will result in a grade of "F" for the student. No excuses are necessary for absences and no excuses will mitigate the attendance policy. Arriving late to class after 11:00 am (on the instructor's watch) is considered absent. Traffic delays, parking problems, illness, childcare issues, etc. do not excuse lateness or absence from class – students are allowed the four absences, period.*

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Academic honesty is presumed and required on the part of all students in the course. Use of the work of others is positively encouraged and is central to scholarship, but it must always be

properly credited. When it is not credited, and when the thoughts/words/ideas of others are passed off as your own, then that is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the appropriate university office; penalties are severe. Please see <http://academic.fiu.edu/docs/misconduct.htm> for more information. If you are in doubt about how to handle quotations or citations, please consult the instructor.

Electronic devices are to be turned off and stowed for the duration of the class. Any failure to do so may result in the confiscation of the device for the duration of the class and a penalty counted towards class participation.

## **Requirements**

Class attendance is required for all students (see above). Much of what will appear on the assignments will be taken from lectures and discussions in class, above and beyond the content of the readings. Yet, the assigned readings for class are essential as well. Material on the assignments may draw from content of the readings that may not be covered in class. Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. The quality of class participation is valued more than quantity. *Class attendance and participation will be worth 5% of the course grade (see also above for special policies regarding class attendance).*

Students will also complete four written assignments in which they will answer questions based on the readings, lectures and video presentations. Late papers will not be accepted. For Turnitin.com the class ID is “2123182” and the enrollment password is “panthers”. Students will submit the assignments both electronically to Turnitin and in hard-copy at the start of class the day the paper is due. A failure to submit in both formats will be severely penalized.

1. *Assignment #1 will be worth 20% of the final course grade and is due on February 5.*
2. *Assignment #2 will be worth 25% of the final course grade and is due on February 26.*
3. *Assignment #3 will require reading an additional book and writing an executive summary of the book, it will be worth 20% of the final course grade and is due on April 15. More details on this assignment will be made available later.*
4. *Assignment #4 will be worth 30% of the final course grade and is due on the date of the scheduled final exam which will be announced.*

## **Major Topics and Associated Readings:**

*Introduction: Basic Terms and Definitions and the Geographical Context*  
(1/8, 1/10)

Tripp, Introduction (1-7).

*The Ottoman Era*

(1/15, 1/17)

Tripp, Chapter 1 (8-29).

*State Formation and the British Mandate*

(1/22, 1/24)

Tripp, Chapter 2 (30-74).

*State Building under the Monarchy*

(1/29, 1/31)

Tripp, Chapters 3-4 (75-142).

## **Assignment 1: Due 2/5**

*Arab Nationalism and the Military*

(2/5, 2/7)

Tripp, Chapter 5 (143-185).

*The Ba'athist Republic: the Rule and Survival of Saddam Hussein*

(2/12, 2/14, 2/19, 2/21)

Tripp, Chapter 6 (186-276).

Watch *The Survival of Saddam* (Reserve Video) and *Uncle Saddam* (Reserve Video).

## **Assignment 2: Due 2/26**

*Preparing for a New War*

(2/26, 2/28)

James Fallows, "Bind into Baghdad," *The Atlantic Monthly* January/February 2004.

Begin reading Riverbend.

*The American Invasion & Aftermath*

(3/4, 3/6)

Tripp, Chapter 7 and Conclusion (277-322);

Michael Gordon, "Catastrophic Success," *The New York Times* October 19-21, 2004, three parts.

Continue reading Riverbend.

*Political Processes*

(3/11, 3/13) [3/18, 3/20 Spring Break]

Phebe Marr "Iraq's New Political Map," *United State Institute of Peace Special Report*

179 (January 2007);

Finish reading Riverbend.

*Roots of the Insurgency; Roots of Civil War*

(3/25, 3/27)

International Crisis Group "In Their Own Words: Reading the Iraqi Insurgency,"

*ICG Middle East Report* 50 (February 2006);

International Crisis Group "The Next Iraqi War: Sectarianism and Civil Conflict,"

*ICG Middle East Report* 52 (February 2006).

*Current Social Divisions & Conflicts*

(4/1, 4/3)

International Crisis Group "Iraq and the Kurds: Resolving the Kirkuk Crisis,"

*ICG Middle East Report* 64 (April 2007);

International Crisis Group "Where is Iraq Heading?: Lessons from Basra," *ICG Middle East Report* 67 (June 2007);

TBA.

*Who Lost Iraq? Can It Be Brought Back?*

(4/8, 4/10, 4/15, 4/17)

Kenneth M. Pollack, The Seven Deadly Sins of Failure in Iraq: A Retrospective Analysis of the Reconstruction." *Middle East Review of International Affairs* 10:4 (December 2006);

James Baker & Lee Hamilton, Chairmen, *The Iraq Study Group Report*.

TBA

**Assignment 3: Due 4/15**

**Assignment 4: Due date of final exam (TBA)**