Over There: The Iraq War In U.S. Film and Media

This course examines the many and diverse visual representations of the Iraq war in Hollywood and independent films, television series, documentaries, and in news media coverage. It focuses on the representations and experiences of Iraqis, U.S. soldiers, and their families at home, and asks larger questions about national identity and war, history and culture, and issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and class in war narratives.

Required Books:

All chapters and articles are available on e-reserve, unless a www link is provided.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (20%)
Class attendance and weekly film screenings outside of class are mandatory. My attendance policy is strict and in accordance with SLU’s policies. Your course grade will drop by 1/3 (for example, from a B- to a C+) for every absence, beginning with your third. I expect you to come to class fully prepared, with the assigned book or assigned course readings printed out, and to participate in class discussions. Weekly film screenings are required. All written assignments are due at the beginning of each class. I do not accept late papers; no exceptions. A late paper results in a failing grade for this particular assignment.

WEEKLY MEDIA UPDATES (30%)
For each Tuesday class, you will prepare a brief media update and present on it for about five minutes. Select and compare at least two newspaper/magazine articles, blog entries, photographs, or television news segments.

**MIDTERM PAPER (20%)**
Comparative Media Analysis (5-7 pages)

**FINAL PROJECT (30%)**
Organize and facilitate a discussion panel on the Iraq War for the SLU community. This event will take place in May. This assignment is a group project, and its success depends on your personal involvement and your collaboration skills. I will grade you individually on your engagement, based on biweekly updates, on the success of the event, and on an accompanying paper (5 pages).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
Students who believe that, due to the presence of a disability, they may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this, or any other, class at Saint Louis University are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or by visiting by the Student Success Center, Suite 331. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. I am only able to support student accommodation requests upon receipt of an approved letter from Disability Services. I will gladly speak with approved students after registration with Disability Services.

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**WEEK 1**
**INTRODUCTION**
*January 12*
Introduction and Welcome
*January 14*
Assignment: bring to class two news items (any media) about the Iraq War

**WEEK 2: HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS**
*January 19*
*January 21*

**SCREENING: BODY OF WAR (2008)**
WEEK 3
MILITARY RECRUITMENT

January 26
- USMC’s new recruiting video (“America’s Few”): http://www.marines.com/
- USMC recruiting videos on www.youtube.com:
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwY67LYzH7Q
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl5QLcGBmCk&NR=1
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-9KHqMVe1k&feature=related
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7ni8TgYS&feature=related
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jh0Iyt0J7xw&feature=related
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFeHoMhvuz7A&feature=related
- U.S. Navy recruiting video:
  http://www.navy.com/gffg/?campaign=promocalling_navy
- U.S. Army recruiting video:
  http://www.goarmy.com/home/officership/index.jsp#/?section=introvideo


January 28

SCREENING: GUNNER PALACE (2005)

WEEK 4
RACE AND ETHNICITY

February 2

February 4


WEEK 5
GENDER: WOMEN AT WAR I

February 9
February 11

SCREENING: *THE HURT LOCKER (2009)*

WEEK 6
GENDER: WOMEN AT WAR II
February 16
February 18

SCREENING: *GRACE IS GONE (2007)*

WEEK 7
THE MANY STORIES OF JESSICA LYNCH
February 23

February 25

SCREENING: *SAVING JESSICA LYNCH (2005)*

WEEK 8
WAR PHOTOGRAPHY
March 2
March 4
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/26/world/middleeast/26censor.html?ex=1217736000&en=dbcc93cc0647f37b&ei=5070&emc=eta1,
- Listen to segment or read transcript on NPR (National Public Radio):


WEEK 9
No Classes (spring break)

WEEK 10
POPULAR MUSIC I
March 16
Introduction and Chapters Two and Four in Sound Targets
March 18
Chapter Five in Sound Targets

SCREENING: STOP-LOSS (2008)

WEEK 11
POPULAR MUSIC II
March 23
Chapter 6 in Sound Targets
March 25
Postscript in Sound Targets

SCREENING: THE WAY WE GET BY (2009)

WEEK 12
THE IMPACT: IRAQI CIVILIANS
March 30
April 1:
No Class (Holy Thursday)

WEEK 13
THE IMPACT: ABU GHRAIB

April 6

April 8

SCREENING: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (2008)

WEEK 14
HOMECOMINGS

April 13

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6yPvsWg1Ms
http://www.mysanantonio.com/videos/en/?bctid=25329763001
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFU5qu0G84M
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/21816438#21816438
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgibVZ9pcbq
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bbHofrAVTo
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bbHofrAVTo
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpohfny7jWg

April 15

SCREENING: TAKING CHANCE (2009)
WEEK 15
ALTERNATIVE REPRESENTATIONS: HISTORY AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
April 20
April 22
- “US Troops Kill Baghdad Lions.” BBC News Online April 22, 2003

SCREENING: IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH (2007)

WEEK 16
CONCLUSIONS
April 27
“From Over Here to Over There And Back Again”: Lecture and Discussion
April 29
Conclusions