This course covers the modern history of Iraq from Ottoman times to the present day. The specific periods dealt with are the following: Ottoman Mesopotamia (1903-1920), the British Mandate (1920-1932), the Hashemite Monarchy (1932-1941), the Ending of the Old Regime (1941-1958), the Revolutionary Era (1958-1968), the Consolidation of Baathist Power (1968-1979), the Iran-Iraq War (1979-1990), the Persian Gulf War and Sanctions (1990-2001), and the Iraq War (2003-2011). For each period, you will be assigned readings from textbooks and Iraqi memoirs. You will also view a series of ethnographic films to provide you with images of this country. The readings draw attention to two key themes in Iraqi history: the search for national identity and the concomitant fragmentation of Iraqi society along ethnic and religious lines.

Course Materials:

A. There are two major textbooks used for information in this course. These are:

B. You will also be expected to read and to analyze the following memoirs:

There are also a number of articles and book chapters, and these are on Blackboard.

Course Evaluation

You must write four (4) responses to the assigned readings. These responses must be between one and two pages. They are to be handed in before the class discusses the assigned reading on which you wrote. You may choose the set of course materials to which you will respond (but it
should not be the books). The purpose of the responses is to help you gather your thoughts. Each response is worth 5% of your grade. Thus, the responses are worth 20% of the final grade.

You must write three (3) **analytical book reviews.** Of the five assigned memoirs, you must choose three (3) and write analytical book reviews. These reviews are to be between three and four pages (not more, not less). You must write them in 12-point type-face, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Book reviews are due in class one week after our discussion of the book in question. I will not accept book reviews emailed as an attachment. You will be penalized five points for each day a book review is late. You will receive guidelines for writing the review during the first week of class. Each book review is worth 20% of your final grade (60% total).

**Attendance and Participation** are critical components of your final grade. Students should come to class having reflected on a given topic so as to discuss it in class, even if you choose not to write a response on it. Again: readings must be reflected upon **before** class! Your participation is 20% of a final grade. Your grade may suffer after more than two unexcused absences.

**Disclaimers**

*Plagiarism will not be tolerated at Purdue University:* Plagiarism is a crime, and students can be expelled for turning in a paper that they did not write. Copying a person’s work verbatim is not the only form of plagiarism. In some cases, plagiarism involves paraphrasing the idea of another without a footnote or the repetition of another author’s phrase. Students are advised to consult Purdue University’s Guide to Academic Integrity for guidelines at: http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm. Plagiarized work will receive a 0, and the professor reserves the right to forward the student's case to the administration.

In the event of a major campus emergency, the requirements, deadlines and grading policies set down on this syllabus are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any changes will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website. It may also be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.

**August 20 (Tu) Class Introduction**

**August 22 (Th) The Sunni-Shii Split in Iraq**

**Class Preparations**

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 1

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Intro


**August 27 (Tu) Ottoman Mesopotamia**
Class Preparations

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 1


**August 29 (Th)** Popular US Perceptions of Iraq in the 1920s  
--Film Clip, “The Thief of Baghdad”

Class Preparations


**September 3 (Tu)** No Class!

**September 5 (Th)** The British Mandate I

Class Preparations

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 2

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 2

**September 10 (Tu)** The British Mandate II

Class Preparations


**September 12 (Th)** The Hashemite Monarchy

Class Preparations

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 3

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 3

**September 17 (Tu)** Ending the Old Regime

Class Preparations
Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 4

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 4

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 5 (b) on “Corruption & Inequality”

**September 19 (Th)**  The Farhud

Class Preparations


**September 24 (Tu)**  The Lot of Baghdadi Jews I

--Start Film, “Forget Baghdad”

**September 26 (Th)**  The Lot of Baghdadi Jews II

--End Film, “Forget Baghdad”

**October 1 (Tu)**  The Lot of Kurdish Jews

Class Preparations

Sabar, *My Father’s Paradise*

**October 3 (Th)**  The Revolutionary Era

Class Preparations

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 5 and Ch. 6

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 5

**October 8 (Tu)**  No Class!

**October 10 (Th)**  No Class!

**October 15 (Tu)**  A Shii Village in Hashemite Iraq
Class Preparations

Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik*

**October 17 (Th) Baathism**

Class Preparations

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 7

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 6

**October 22 (Tu) Iraqi Kurds in Baathist Iraq**

Class Preparations


Saleem, *My Father’s Rifle*

**October 24 (Th) The Iran-Iraq War**

Class Preparations

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 8

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 7

**October 29 (Tu) The Persian Gulf War and Sanctions**

Class Preparations

Marr, The Modern History of Iraq, Ch. 9

Holden, A Documentary History of Modern Iraq, Ch. 8

**October 31 (Th) The (Mis)Use of History in Arguing for War**

Class Preparations


**November 5 (Tu)**  **Iraqi Perspectives on the Iraq War**  
--Start Film, “Iraq in Fragments”

**November 7 (Th)**  **Iraqi Perspectives on the Iraq War**  
--End Film, “Iraq in Fragments”

**November 12 (Tu)**  **The Story of a (Elite) Shii Family in Modern Iraq**

Class Preparations

Chalabi, *Late for Tea at the Deer Palace*

**November 14 (Th)**  **The Invasion and Occupation of Iraq**

Class Preparations

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, Ch. 10

Holden, *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq*, Ch. 9 and Ch. 10

**November 19 (Tu)**  **Representations of the Iraq War, Jessica Lynch**  
--Film, "Saving Jessica Lynch"

Class Preparations


**November 21 (Th)**  **Representations of the Iraq War, Jessica Lynch**

Class Preparations


**November 26 (Tu)**  **No Class!**
November 28 (Th)  No Class!

December 3 (Tu)  An US Marine’s Perspective of the Iraq War

Class Preparations

Campbell, Joker One

December 5 (Th)  Guest Speaker, Captain Charles Anklam USMC