9/11 and the War in Iraq

Updated Syllabus

1. The circumstances under which each of you will be completing this semester will vary a lot, and some of you will find it easier to focus on schoolwork than others. Therefore, I'm glad the College decided to go with a mandatory P/F grading system for this semester. If your particular situation (a difficult living situation at home, sickness in the family, or anything at all) makes it impossible for you to get your work done on time (or even done at all), please let me know and be affirmed in the fact that I will totally understand. My hope is that the readings, films, and assignments for this particular class won't feel like onerous, meaningless tasks but rather a meaningful and rewarding way to engage with important, relevant issues.

2. For those of you who chose to write a journal, please complete one more entry after Spring Break. Those of you who planned to write a final paper, please send me a 5-7 page paper by May 20th, 2020.

3. I will not be expecting you to submit an oral history on 9/11 paper or an Iraq War media analysis. Please note that if you have already submitted an oral history you do not have write another journal entry (if you are journaling). If you were planning to write a paper and you have already submitted an oral history, your final paper should be 3-4 pages long.

4. I have reduced the reading assignments for the second half of the spring semester and we will watch slightly fewer films and documentaries. This is to maximize your ability to read deeply and not just to get through the assigned number of pages. I know that with everything that's going on, it can be hard to focus -- on anything. I feel that myself these days. We will all do our best.

5. We are going to attempt to have live synchronous classes (typically Tuesdays) via Zoom. These sessions will be recorded so if you cannot make it, you can always have access to the discussions after the fact. Our Friday sessions generally will be asynchronous. Please note that
our very first class on the Tuesday after Spring Break will be a Videoconference with the American University of Cairo.

6. The format for the asynchronous classes on Fridays will be as follows. The class is divided into two groups (alphabetically by last name). There is the “A-H Group” (Altmann-Zilkha) and the “L-Z Group” (Lamb-Zilkha). Each week, one group will be the primary responders to the questions I pose on the readings/films on Glow.

7. These responses are due by 9pm on the Thursday of that week (9pm in your local time zone, wherever you might be).

8. Once your classmates have posted their Glow posts, please do your best to read all of them. And feel free to respond and engage with any of them, at any time. This back-and-forth is not required, but it would be wonderful if some of the posts turned into mini-conversations.

9. While you are reading through your classmates’ posts, I will be doing the same, and I will then record an informal lecture/response in an audio file and then email you all a link to that audio file (by 9am EST on Fridays).

10. No one will fail this course. Everyone will pass. Please don’t do the work out of fear or anxiety. Engage because it will be a meaningful and interesting educational experience for you. This is a crazy, unprecedented semester. We have to flexible and adapt to this ever-changing situation. None of us signed up for this and this online format is new to all of us. Let’s be gentle with ourselves and with each other, just do our best, and make the best of an unfortunate situation. My priority is your wellbeing and physical and emotional health. And to ensure that you will finish this course successfully. I will work with you. I will meet you where you are. I am itching to get back to a routine and to think about and discuss other things than Covid.
New Updated Schedule

**Tuesday, April 7, 2020 Videoconference with AUC (Synchronous via Zoom)**
**Topic: 9/11 and the buildup to the Iraq War**
Watch on Glow: *Fahrenheit 9/11*

We will be discussing Michael Moore’s 2004 documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*. This documentary received the Golden Award at Cannes for best documentary and is the highest grossing documentary of all time. When it was released it had a big impact socially and politically for its controversial and provocative claims.

**Thursday, April 9. Group A-H. Due by 9pm (in your local time zone)**
Glow post response to my pre-recorded lecture and questions. Note that you can record an audio response on Glow or write a response (length approx. 100-200 words).

**Friday, April 10, 2020 Interpreting 9/11 in the COVID Era (Asynchronous)**

1) Read your classmates Glow responses; 2) Listen to my audio response, which will be posted by 9am Eastern Time; 3) Respond to these responses if you can.

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020 What is Iraq? (Synchronous via Zoom)**
Readings: Shadid, Prologue and Part I
Also watch two short pre-recorded lectures on Glow.
   a) *What is Iraq?*
   b) *Understanding Iraq* (Powerpoint)

**Thursday, April 16. Group L-Z. Due by 9pm (in your local time zone)**
Glow post response to my pre-recorded lecture and questions related to the readings of Friday, April 17. Note that you can record an audio response on Glow or write a response (length approx. 100-200 words).

**Friday, April 17, 2020 Making the case for war (Asynchronous)**
Readings: On Glow – Colin Powell, UN Speech
   National Security Archives: Was there ever a decision?

1) Read your classmates Glow responses; 2) Listen to my audio response, which will be posted by 9am Eastern Time; 3) Respond to these responses if you can.
**Tuesday, April 21, 2020 Invading Iraq (Synchronous via Zoom)**
Readings: Shadid, Part II
Filkins, 4-12

**Thursday, April 23rd. Group A-H. Due by 9pm (in your local time zone)**
Glow post response to my pre-recorded lecture and questions related to the documentary *Control Room*. Note that you can record an audio response on Glow or write a response (length approx. 100-200 words).

**Friday, April 24, 2020 The Media and Iraq (Asynchronous)**
Watch on Glow: *Control Room*

1) Read your classmates Glow responses; 2) Listen to my audio response, which will be posted by 9am Eastern Time; 3) Respond to these responses if you can.

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020 The Occupation (Synchronous via Zoom)**
Watch on Glow: *About Baghdad*
Read: Shadid, Part IV

**Thursday, April 30, Group L-Z. Due by 9pm (in your local time zone)**
Glow post response to my pre-recorded lecture and questions related to Chapters 12-18 from the Filkins book. Note that you can record an audio response on Glow or write a response (length approx. 100-200 words).

**Friday, May 1, 2020 Forever War (Asynchronous)**
Reading: Filkins, Chapters 12-18

1) Read your classmates Glow responses; 2) Listen to my audio response, which will be posted by 9am Eastern Time; 3) Respond to these responses if you can.

**Tuesday, May 5, 2020 The realities of war (Synchronous via Zoom)**
Watch: *No End in Sight* documentary on Glow

**Thursday, Thursday May 7th. Both Groups. Due by 9pm (in your local time zone)**
Glow post response to my pre-recorded lecture and questions related to the Hurt Locker. Note that you can record an audio response on Glow or write a response (length approx. 100-200 words).
**Friday, May 8, 2020 Insurgency (Asynchronous)**
Readings: Filkins, chapters 19-end
Watch on Glow: *The Hurt Locker*

1) Read your classmates Glow responses; 2) Listen to my audio response, which will be posted by 9am Eastern Time; 3) Respond to these responses if you can.

**Tuesday, May 12, 2020 Iraq today (Synchronous via Zoom)**
Watch on Glow: *The Unknown Known*

**Friday, May 15, 2020 The Legacy of 9/11 and War in Iraq (Synchronous via Zoom)**