

FSEM 1020-04
When States Use Terror
Hamline University, CLA
Fall Semester 2009
Tu/Th 12:50 to 2:20
GLC 246W

Professor

Kate Bjork

History/Global Studies/Latin American Studies

Office: Manor Basement 33C

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(Note: I prefer to talk in person or on the phone.

When you e-mail me, please include a phone number at which I can reach you.)

Link to Blackboard Site: <http://hamline.blackboard.com/>

Office Hours

Friday, 1-3 p.m.

Tu/Th, 2:30-3:30

and by appointment

New Student Mentors

Georgia Patrascu

Phone (cell): 612-859-0795

E-mail: gpatrascu01@hamline.edu

Sam Lundquist

Phone (cell): 307-299-1121

E-mail: slundquist05@hamline.edu

Campus Colleague

Kevin Barta, Coordinator of Int'l Student Programs

Center for Multicultural & Int'l Student Affairs (MISA)

Office: 1475 Hewitt Ave, 2nd Floor

Phone: 523-2423

E-mail: kbarta01@hamline.edu

Office Door Open

9:00-5:00

Overview

In contemporary discourse, the word “terror” is usually reserved for acts of violence carried out by non-state actors. This course examines the history and manifestations of terror deployed by states against their own citizens, or against non-citizens within the national territory. We will consider what happens when governments wage war against their own people, or use state power to silence or “disappear” domestic opponents and as a way of intimidating the population at large. We will also pay particular attention to the use of torture as a form of state terror.

Writing-Intensive First Year Seminar

This is a “Writing-Intensive” FYSEM. Along with meeting FYSem learning goals, writing-intensive FYSem offer students the opportunity to earn their Hamline Plan “E,” “expository writing” experience. For students in other FYSem, the “E” is typically completed through ENG 1110: Writing and Reading Texts, although a small number of students transfer an “E.”

Although generally FYSem learning experiences reinforce the objectives of the first-year writing experience and vice versa, it is possible to meet the course expectations of the seminar, *without demonstrating that you have met the baseline standards for first-year writing*. If the instructor determines that you have not achieved the skill level of critical thinking, reading, and writing you will need for success as you continue your college career at Hamline, she will recommend that you take English 1110. In other words, you could pass the FYSem and yet not be awarded the “E” for the writing-intensive component of the course, in which case you would have to enroll in ENG 1110, preferably in the Spring. This should not be viewed as a punishment, but rather as an opportunity to work on your writing skills. There will be ample opportunity to discuss and to work on your writing throughout the semester.

Disability Accommodation

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 523-2521 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If you already have a letter from their office, please present it to me so that I will be able to provide the needed accommodations in this class.

Grading and Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Be respectful of the class, the instructor and your peers and plan to arrive on time. Your participation in class is important and expected. I reserve the right to lower the grades of students who miss class sessions without informing me of circumstances that I consider to be of an extraordinary and compelling nature. You are responsible for information missed due to absence from class. I also reserve the right to adjust grades upwards in the case of individuals who make significant contributions to classroom discussion. Course grades will be based on the following assignments. Complete guidelines for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard and/or distributed in class.

Timerman assignment 1	Sept 15	5%
Personal essay	Sept 22	ungraded
Timerman assignment 2	Oct 1	10%
Reading Summary (McCoy)	October 22	10%
Bibliography	October 29	5%
Book Review	Nov 3	15%
Book panel presentations		5%
Persuasive essay (CBT letter)	Nov 10	15%
Document summary	Nov 17	10%
Presentation of document		5%
Language and Politics essay	Dec 3	15%
MAP-Works survey I	Sept 21-30	2.5%
MAP-Works survey II	Nov. 2-11	2.5%

Incompletes

I will only consider giving you an Incomplete in the case of an emergency or some dire circumstances beyond your control. Such circumstances must be documented by a letter from your doctor or death certificate or other such proof of the exceptional nature of the situation. In accordance with Hamline policy an incomplete further requires a contract to be signed by instructor and student.

H1N1 'Flu

Attendance is important for your success in class and for the success of the seminar as a learning experience for all of us. However, your health and that of the larger community are also important. In the event that Hamline experiences the impact of the H1N1 'flu this fall it will be necessary to revisit the usual expectations for attendance in class. If you are sick with 'flu symptoms, you should **not** be attending class. I will be following guidelines from the Dean of Students Office on how to respond to 'flu cases in our class in a way that supports student learning while safeguarding public health.

Cell Phones

Cell Phones (and other electronic devices) should be out of sight and out of mind during class time, including class trips (CityServe) and other FYSEM related events.

Required Texts

The following books are required for the course and are available for purchase in the Hamline Bookstore.

Prisoner without a Name; Cell without a Number by Jacobo Timerman

The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals by Jane Mayer

A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation, From the Cold War to the War on Terror by Alfred W. McCoy

Keys for Writers (Ann Raimos, Houghton Mifflin, 5th edition, ISBN 0-618-75386-9), This is Hamline's common writing handbook, and will be useful to you in courses throughout your college career (and beyond).

You will also be reading one additional book, available within the Clicnet library consortium. I will distribute a list of suggested books by the fourth week of class for you to choose from. Other readings for the course (documents, articles) will be distributed in class, available on reserve at Bush library, or will be posted on the Blackboard Site.

The Hamline Blackboard Site will contain the most up-to-date version of the syllabus, as well as details of assignments and course announcements. <http://hamline.blackboard.com/>

Schedule of Course Topics and Readings

Note: assigned readings are marked with an asterisk (*). Reading should be completed *before* the class meets on the day it is assigned. Come to class prepared to discuss the reading for the day. Writing assignments are marked with two asterisks (**). Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due in hard copy form. Late assignments may be penalized.

Week 1: Sept 6, 8, 10 & 11

Sunday: Initial course meeting, 4-5 p.m. GLC 246W
Assignments due Sept 8 and Sept 15 will be distributed

Tuesday: 7:45 a.m.: meet in Sorin for breakfast; **8:30** “Charge to Volunteers,” Old Main Mall; **9:00** catch MetroTransit bus (northeast corner of Minnehaha/Snelling) to Center for Victims of Torture for volunteer orientation

***Read: familiarize yourself with the Center for Victims of Torture web page**

www.cvt.org

****Question assignment due**

Thursday: Faculty/Staff Convocation (no class meeting)

***Read:** Timerman, chaps 1 & 2

Friday: **Register for your LiveText account and complete and submit
“Survey for Students Entering First-Year Writing Courses” *by 4:00 p.m.*

Week 2: Sept 15 & 17

Tuesday: State Terror—definitions and history

***Read:** Timerman, chaps. 3-5

****Timerman Assignment 1 due**

Distribution of Personal Essay assignment—Campus Colleague Kevin Barta

Thursday: Focus on Argentina

***Read:** Timerman, chaps. 6-10

Note: Film showing and discussion on Genocide and Human Rights, GLC 1S, 7-9

Week 3: Sept 21, 22 & 24 & 25

Monday: MAP-Works Survey I open

Tuesday: Focus on Chile

***Read:** Timerman, chaps. 11 & epilogue (finish the book); and read “Villa Grimaldi”

****Personal essays due; turn in one copy in class and one copy to Kevin Barta in MISA office by 4 p.m.; sign up for a meeting with Kevin**

(Week 3 continued Sept 24 & 25)

Thursday: Focus on Iran
Film “Persepolis”

Friday, 11:30-12:30 : International Roundtable Lecture by Prof. Omid Mohseni on Iran, GLC 1S; you should attend this lecture if it does not conflict with a class

Week 4: Sept 29 & Oct 1.

Tuesday: Hamline Plan presentation by Academic Advising; discussion of “Persepolis” continued

***Read:** *Undergraduate Bulletin*, pp. 7-28 (If you don’t have a copy of the *Bulletin*, you can pick one up from the Center for Academic Services (Lower Level, Bush Library)

****MAP-Works Survey I due by Sept. 30**

Thursday: Terror and the Colonial State
Book review choice list distributed

***Read:** Paul Kramer, “The Water Cure,” *New Yorker*, 2/25/2008, Vol. 84 Issue 2, p38-43 [article distributed in class]

****Timerman Assignment 2 due**

4:00 p.m. Commitment to Community Address, Keith Boykin: “Social Justice in the Obama Era,” Hamline United Methodist Church

Week 5: Oct. 6 & 8

Tuesday: Focus on Genocide

****Selection of book to review**

Wednesday: Genocide Intervention event on campus

Thursday: Library Session; meet in Bush Library Room 10 (Basement)

Week 6: Oct 13 & 15

Tuesday: Regulating War; Protecting Human Rights

***Read: Geneva Conventions, 1994 Convention Against Torture**

1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 5: “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.”); Geneva Convention III Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Articles 13, 87, 89); Geneva Convention IV Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Article 31 “No physical or moral coercion shall be exercised . .

Thursday: Terror Goes to War: proportionality and asymmetric use of force

Film: Fog of War

***Read:** *Nation* obituary of Robert McNamera (handed out in class)

Week 7: Oct. 20 & 22

Tuesday: Torture and State Terror

Discuss Fog of War

***Read:** McCoy, Introduction and Chap. 1

Thursday: Twentieth Century torture

***Read:** McCoy, Chap. 2, “Mind Control”; Naomi Klein “Shock” [Blackboard]

****Summary of McCoy, Chap. 2 due**

Week 8: Oct 27 & 29

Tuesday: Torture and Democracy

***Read:** McCoy, Chap. 3, “Propagating Torture”

Thursday: America’s “War on Terror”

***Read:** McCoy, Chaps. 4 & 5

Week 9: Nov. 2, 3 & 5

Monday: *MAP-Works Survey II open*

Tuesday: The Question of Torture

***Read: McCoy, Chap. 6 and Afterword**

****Book reviews due**

Thursday: Book Panel presentations

Week 10: Nov. 10 & 12

Tuesday: **Book Panel presentations**

****Persuasive essay due (CBT letter)**

****MAP-Works Survey II due by Nov. 11**

Thursday: **Book Panel presentations**

Week 11: Nov. 17 & 19

Tuesday: What’s in a Name: the debate over the definition of torture

***Read:** George Orwell, “Language and Politics”; Mayer, Chaps. 1-4

****Document summaries due**

Thursday: Document Summary presentations

***Read:** Mayer, Chaps. 5-7

Week 12: Nov. 24 & 26

Tuesday: Document summary presentations

***Read:** Mayer, Chap. 8

Thursday: THANKSGIVING (No Class Meeting), but finish reading *The Dark Side over the weekend*

Week 13: Dec. 1 & 3

Tuesday: Discussion of *The Dark Side*

Thursday: Democracy and Dissent

Film: "Charged in the Name of Terror"

****Language and Politics essay due**

Week 14: Dec. 8 & 10

Tuesday: Fear vs. Law

Thursday: Conclusions, assessments and aspirations