

Political Science 635 B International Relations and War (spring 2019)

Tuesdays 3-5:30 in Saunders 624

Michael J. Shapiro

The emphasis of this course will be on cultural texts, especially literary and cinematic approaches to atrocity and war. The initial course texts will focus on the instrumentalities of war – Weapons - and on the land-/city-/warscapes on which they are deployed. The books for this section include: Sven Lindqvist, *Exterminate all the Brutes* and Gregoire Chamayou, *Theory of the Drone*. I will also make available my chapter “What Does a Weapon See” from my 2015 book, *War Crimes, Atrocity, and Justice*. And we will view some films that complement the analyses in those books

Following that section, we will turn back to the African scene (the space of Lindqvist’s book) and focus on the aftermath of the colonial wars with an emphasis on diasporic African bodies as depicted in a wide variety of media genres, beginning with a look at episodes of the Netflix series “The Break,” which begins with the murder of an African football player who had been trafficked to the Belgian village of Heiderfeld. Among the parts of films we will watch are: Antonioni’s *The Passenger*, The Dardenne brothers’, *La Promesse*, Stephen Frears’s *Dirty Pretty Things*, Samuel Maoz’s *Lebanon*, and Robert Greenwald’s documentary, *Unmanned America’s Drone Wars*.

Books to acquire:

Sven Lindqvist, *Exterminate All the Brutes*

Gregoire Chamayou, *Theory of the Drone*

Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony*

Clemantine Wamarya, *The Girl Who Smiled Beads*

Recommended: Sam Opondo and Michael J. Shapiro ed. *The New Violent Cartography*

**Weekly reading, viewing, discussion schedule TBA**