

Military History Film List

WEEK 3: World War I: The “War to End all Wars” (The Anti-War War?)
(Students view 2 of 4 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

Five Views of Heroism -

- "The Blue Max." Dir. John Guillermin. USA: 20th Century Fox, 1966. 156 min. DVD Color Not Rated
- “Flyboys.” Dir. Tony Bill. USA: MGM, 2006. 139 Min. DVD Color PG13
- **"Grand Illusion." Dir. Jean Renoir. France, 1938. 114 min. DVD Black/White Not Rated – will be viewed in class**
- "All Quiet on the Western Front." Dir. Lewis Milestone. USA: Universal Home Video, 1930. 133 min. DVD (U.S. Film, German anti-war source) Black/White Not Rated
- “Lawrence of Arabia.” Dir David Lean. USA: Columbia pictures, 1962. 227 minutes. VHS/DVD Color PG13

• **CLASS DISCUSSION: What does a hero look like, and whose war is it? Come into class with ideas about what perspective on the war each country would have.**

- **Bonus: "Christmas in the Trenches," by John McCutcheon -- Lyrics**
- **Bonus: "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda," by Eric Bogle -- music**
- **Bonus: Waltzing Matilda page**

WEEK 4: World War II : "The Good War" in the European Theater . . .

Heroes: Stemming Nazi Aggression -

(Students view 3 of 6 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

- "A Bridge to Far." Dir. Richard Attenborough. USA: United Artists, 1977. 175 min. DVD Color PG13
- "The Longest Day." Dir. Ken Annakin and Andrew Marton. USA: 20th Century Fox, 1962. 180 min. DVD Black/White PG13
- "The Tuskegee Airmen.” Dir. Robert Markowitz. USA: HBO Video, 1995. 90 min. DVD Color Not Rated.
- “The Big Red One.” Dir. Samuel Fuller. USA: United Artists, 1980. 93 min. DVD Color PG13
- **“Patton.” Dir. Franklin J. Schaffner. USA: Twentieth Century Fox, 1970 170 min. DVD Color PG13 – will be viewed in class**
- “The Desert Fox.” Dir. Henry Hathaway. USA: 20th Century Fox, 1951. 87 min. DVD Color PG 13
- “Desert Rats.” Dir. Robert Wise. USA: 20th Century Fox, 1953. 88 Min. DVD Color PG 13

- **CLASS DISCUSSION: These three films were made when World War II was still a**

very live memory. How do we recognize an American war hero? Clips in class as basis for discussion.

WEEK 5: Soldiers as Victims (stereotypes of concentration camp internees)
(View 1 of 3 outside class as homework)

- "Stalag 17." Dir. Billy Wilder. USA: Paramount, 1953. 120 min. DVD Black/White PG13
 - "Hart's War." Dir. Gregory Hoblit. USA: MGM DVD, 2002. 125 min. Color Rated R - Alternate – do not view – choose one of the other two
 - "The Great Escape." Dir. John Sturges. USA MGM UA, 1963. 2 hours and 52 min. DVD Color PG13
- CLASS DISCUSSION: These three films both deal with US soldiers held as POWs (prisoners of war). Stalag 17 was made when the memory of WWII was fresh; Hart's War, and The Great Raid, long after. Can concentration or POW camps be represented metaphors?

WEEK 6: (View 2 of 4 outside class as homework)

Two Sides of One War: Above and Below, Unwilling Heroes -

- "Das Boot." Dir. Wolfgang Petersen. [Culver City, Calif.]: Columbia Tri-Star Home Video, 1981. 209 min DVD (German film, subtitled) Color Rated R
- "U-571." Dir. Jonathan Mostow. USA: Universal Pictures, 2000. 116 min. DVD Color PG13
- "Twelve O'clock High." Dir. Henry King. USA Twentieth Century Fox DVD 1949. 132 min. Black/White Not Rated
- "Memphis Bell." Dir Michel Carols-Jones. USA: Warner Bros, 1990. 125 min. DVD Color PG13

- CLASS DISCUSSION: Submarine and Air crews are in a different kind of war. What differences are there in stereotypes of various services?

. . . in the East: Pearl Harbor and Beyond, The "Yellow Peril"

When the Sleeping Giant Rises - (View 3 of 6 outside class as homework)

- "From Here to Eternity." Dir. Fred Zinnemann. USA: Columbia Pictures, 1953. 118 min. DVD Black/White Not Rated
- "Pearl Harbor." Dir. Michael Bay. USA: Buena Vista Home Entertainment, 2001. 184 min. DVD Color PG13
- "Never So Few." Dir John Sturges. USA: Warner Bros./Metro-Goldwin-Mayer, 1959. 120 min. DVD Color Not Rated
- "Tora! Tora! Tora! Dir. Richard Fleischer, Kinji Fukasaku, Toshido Masuda. USA/Japan 20th Century Fox Corp, 1970. 144 min. DVD Color Rated G
- "Flags of Our Fathers." Dir. Clint Eastwood. USA: Patamount, 2006. 132 min. DVD Color Rated R

- “Letters from Iwo Jima.” Dir. Clint Eastwood. USA: Warner Bros. Pictures, 2006. 141 min. DVD Color Rated R

• CLASS DISCUSSION: Three of these films recreate the bombing at Pearl Harbor, the start of US participation in WW II. What differences in point of view are there in the attack sequences? Two are about the same battle, viewed from opposite sides. In Eastwood’s two films, you get a unique perspective of both sides, who’s story is being told?

WEEK 7: POWs and the Other War -

(Students view 2 of 2 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

- "King Rat." Dir. Bryan Forbes. USA: Columbia Classics, 1965. 135 min. DVD Black/White Not Rated (a British film, based on a novel by James Clavell)
- **"The Bridge on the River Kwai." Dir. David Lean. USA: Columbia Tri-Star Home Video, 1957. 162 min. DVD Color PG13 – will be viewed in class.**
- “The Great Raid.” Dir. John Dahl. USA: Miramax 2005. 132 min. DVD Color Rated R – Alternate – may read the book “Ghost Soldiers”

• CLASS DISCUSSION: The treatment of POWs in the Pacific Theater was used to justify the bombing of Hiroshima. Do these “Allies” films show the same war?

WEEK 8:

PART 4. Aftermath and Coming Home

Still-Open Wounds from Europe -

(Students view 1 of 1 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

- **"The Best Years of Our Lives." Dir. William Wyler. USA: HBO Video, 1946. 170 min. DVD Black/White Not Rated – will be viewed in class**
- "White Christmas." Dir. Michael Curtiz. USA: Paramount Home Video, 1954. 120 min. DVD Black/White Not Rated

• CLASS DISCUSSION: Each of these films has a message of "normalization" required. What does the film show about the on-going clean-up of the war?

Midterm

WEEK 9: Rethinking WW II: Presenting Victims, Not Heroes Normal People . . .

(Students view 1 of 1 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

- "The Seventh Cross." Dir. Fred Zinneman. USA: MGM/UA, 1944. 122 min. DVD (Hollywood movie made from a leftist German novel of the war era) Black/White Not Rate- optional viewing, not required
 - **"Schindler's List." Dir. Steven Spielberg. USA: Universal, 1993. 196 min. DVD Color Rated R – will be viewed in class. Alternate – research paper on the Holocaust.**
- CLASS DISCUSSION: Each film dramatizes victims and victimizers. What is the point of each?

Children as Victims...

(View 2 of 2 outside class as homework)

- "The Tin Drum." Dir. Volker Schlöndorff. Germany: Image Entertainment, 1979. 142 min. DVD Color Rated R (German film from a novel by Günter Grass)
 - "Empire of the Sun." Dir. Steven Spielberg. USA: Warner Bros Home Entertainment, 1987. 152 min. DVD Color PG13
- CLASS DISCUSSION: Children are swept up in the wars and forced into lives apart. What do they become? What cases are being made?

WEEK 10: Soldier as Victims: Rethinking the War

(Students view 1 of 1 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

- "Catch-22." Dir. Mike Nichols. USA: Paramount, 1970. 121 min. DVD Color Rated R
- **"Saving Private Ryan." Dir. Steven Spielberg. USA: DreamWorks Home Video, 1998. 170 min. DVD Color Rated R – will be viewed in class. Alternate – research paper on "Operation Overlord"**

Rewriting the History of WW II: Once Memories dim . . .

(Students view 1 of 1 outside class as homework)

- "Max." Dir. Menno Meyjes. USA: AAMPI Inc., Alliance Atlantis Communications, 2002. 106 min. DVD Color Rated R (international art film)
- CLASS DISCUSSION: These three films span the space from documentary to mockumentary (*Max*, which completely fictionalizes Hitler's biography). What kinds of memory are reworked in each? What audience factors play in?

The End Game: After the "Greatest Generation" Passes

WEEK 11: (Students view 1 of 2 outside class as homework)

- "Stalingrad." Dir. Joseph Vilsmaier. German: Fox Lorber Home Video, 1993. 150

- min. DVD Color Not Rated (German film)
- "Enemy at the Gates." Dir. Jean-Jacques Annaud. USA/France: Paramount, 2001. 131 min. DVD Color Rated R (European movie with US star)

- CLASS DISCUSSION: Both films are about Germany's devastating loss at Stalingrad - with huge casualties on both sides. What does each do to "package" the war for its respective viewers?

WEEK 12: The "Cold War": War as Governmental Lunacy, Spy versus Spy
The "Facts": From Russia through the "Korean Police Action"
 (Students view 3 of 4 outside class as homework – the two in bold will be viewed in class)

- **"The Manchurian Candidate." Dir. John Frankenheimer. USA: MGM Home Entertainment, 1962. 129 min. DVD Black/White Not rated – will be viewed in class**
- "M*A*S*H." Dir. Robert Altman. USA: Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, 1970. 116 min. DVD Color Rated R
- "Pork Chop Hill." Dir. Lewis Milestone. USA: MGM 1959. 97 Min. DVD Color Not Rated. Alternate – "Pork Chop Hill" by S.L.A. Marshall
- "The Bridges at Toko-Ri" Dir. Mark Robinson. USA: Paramount Pictures 1954. 103 Min. DVD Color Rated PG 13
- CLASS DISCUSSION: Manchurian Candidate was so threatening it was essentially suppressed; M*A*S*H was about Korea, but made after the Vietnam War. How did the Cold War function at home, and how did these movies intervene?
- "From Russia with Love." Dir. Terence Young. United Kingdom: Criterion, 1963. 115 min. DVD Color PG13 ("Bond, James Bond")
- **"Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." Dir. Stanley Kubrick. USA: Columbia Tristar Home Video, 1964. 93 min. DVD Black/White PG13 (British) – will be viewed in class**
- CLASS DISCUSSION: Both deal with saving the world from "the threat." What does each film, its super-heroes and super-villains, tell us?

WEEK 13 & 14: Vietnam: The Dirty War - Asia after WW II
Home Front: Vietnam and the Protests
 (Students will view 4 of 6 outside of class – the ones in bold will be viewed in class)

- "Born on the Fourth of July." Dir. Oliver Stone. USA: MCA Home Video, 1989. 145 min. DVD Color Rated R Alternate – "*Born on the Fourth of July*" the autobiography of Ron Kovic
- "Platoon." Dir. Oliver Stone. USA: MGM, 1986. 120 min. DVD Color Rated R - Alternative – "The Spitting Image, Myth, Memory, and the Legacy of Vietnam"
- "The Green Berets." Dir. Ray Kellogg, John Wayne. USA: Warner Home Video, 1968. 135 min. DVD Color G
- "Gardens of Stone." Dir. Francis Ford Coppola. USA: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 1987. 172 min. DVD Color Rated R

• CLASS DISCUSSION: How to speak to a divided nation about Vietnam.

- "Full Metal Jacket." Dir. Stanley Kubrick. USA: Warner Home Video, 1987. 116 min. DVD Color Rated R – Alternate selected readings from "The Vietnam Reader"
- "Apocalypse Now." Dir. Francis Ford Coppola. USA: Paramount, 1979. 153 min. DVD Color Rated R – Alternate – "A Piece of My Heart, Stories of Twenty-six Women Who Served in Vietnam".
- **"We Were Soldiers." Dir. Randall Wallace. USA: Paramount, 2002. 138 min. DVD Color Rated R – will be viewed in class. Alternative – "We Were Soldiers... Once, and Young".**

• CLASS DISCUSSION: These three films are about soldiers trapped in the insanity of an un-winnable war; both are made long after Vietnam. What do they tell the home front about the war? Who are the "good soldiers" in these films -- compare these representations with older stereotypes.

WEEK 15 & 16: Be all that you can be: The New Armed Forces (Students will view 1 of 1 outside class as homework)

"An Army of One"

- "Top Gun." Dir. Tony Scott. USA: Paramount Pictures, 1986. 110 min. DVD Color PG13

• CLASS DISCUSSION: Who is the new hero? Compare the film to armed forces recruitment today, and to earlier hero representations.

U.S. as the World's Policemen (Middle East and Africa)

(Students will view 3 of 5 outside class as homework – the one in bold will be viewed in class)

- "Tears of the Sun." Dir. Antonine Fuqua. USA: Sony Pictures Releasing, 2003. 121 min. DVD Color Rated R
- **"Black Hawk Down." Dir. Ridley Scott. USA: Columbia Pictures Corporation, 2001. 142 min. DVD Color Rated R - Alternative – "Black Hawk Down, the True Story of Somalia".**

also – **History Channel and Date Line documentaries to compare and contrast the “true” story – will be viewed in class.**

- **CLASS DISCUSSION:** What is the new army? What differences emerge in representing soldiers from the time of WW II and Vietnam?

Where the Real Wars Are: Media Realities (What’s next? Who’s next? Students will view 2 of 3 outside class as homework.)

- "Three Kings." Dir. David O. Russell. USA: Warner Home Video, 1999. 115 min. DVD Color Rated R – Alternative – Selected readings by instructor
- "Wag the Dog." Dir. Barry Levinson. USA: Baltimore Pictures, 1997. 97 min. DVD Color Rated R – Alternative – Selected readings by instructor
- “The Kingdom.” Dir. Peter Berg. USA; Universal Pictures, 2007. 109 Min. DVD Color R

- **CLASS DISCUSSION:** In these two films, Gulf and Balkan wars are used as excuses for other deeds to be done. What do you see in the visual grammar of each?

Allow Two Weeks for make-ups and schedule changes.

FINAL EXAM: