

**Marshall University**  
**FYS 100 Syllabus**

<b>Course Title/Number</b>	First Year Seminar: Propaganda in the Movies
<b>Semester/Year</b>	Spring 2017
<b>Days/Time</b>	Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:15
<b>Location</b>	SH 414
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Stephen M. Underhill
<b>Office</b>	Smith Hall 248
<b>Phone</b>	(304) 696-3020
<b>E-Mail</b>	underhills@marshall.edu
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesdays: 9:15-11:00; 12:15-4:00 Thursdays: 9:15-11:00; 12:15-6:00 Please e-mail me in advance of your arrival, if possible
<b>University Policies</b>	By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs">www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs</a> and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/">www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/</a> . Academic Dishonesty/Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/Computing Services Acceptable Use/Inclement Weather/Dead Week/Students with Disabilities/Academic Forgiveness/Academic Probation and Suspension/Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/Affirmative Action/Sexual Harassment

**Course Description: From Catalog**

Students will learn integrative/critical thinking skills integral to life-long learning through discussion, interaction, discovery, problem solving, writing, research, reflection, and examination of multicultural/international issues.

**Course Theme**

In this section of FYS 100, we will examine how the military helps shape Hollywood movies. We will consider what and how meaning is made in rhetorical, historical, political, sociological, and anthropological contexts and more.

We will discuss a different film each week, and students will submit written reflection papers that analyze those films in a variety of contexts: rhetorical, historical, political, sociological, anthropological, and more. Rather than apply one context per film, we will consider the intersectionality of contexts in the films we study.

The overall goal of this class is to start practicing using the tools and skills that any college graduate will need in work and in life. By the time you graduate from Marshall University, you will be a much better problem solver than you are now. You will have expertise in using nine major tools (alone or together) to understand an issue, accomplish a complex task, or fix a problem. The nine tools (aka the Marshall University Learning Outcomes) are:

- Communication fluency
- Creative thinking
- Ethical and civic thinking
- **Information literacy** ←
- **Inquiry based thinking** ←
- **Integrative thinking** ←
- **Intercultural thinking** ←
- **Metacognitive thinking** ←
- Quantitative thinking

In this class, you will dig in and practice using five of the above tools right away (the ones in bold):

Learning Outcome	How you will practice the outcome in this course	How your achievement of the outcome will be assessed
<p><u>Information Literacy</u>: You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>revise</b> your search strategies and <b>employ</b> appropriate research tools,</li> <li>- <b>integrate</b> relevant information from reliable sources,</li> <li>- <b>question and evaluate</b> the complexity of the information environment, and</li> <li>- <b>use</b> information in an ethical manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching a film and its historical context</li> <li>• Learning how to use library resources</li> <li>• Learning about Alternative types of sources</li> <li>• Weekly reflection papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final exam</li> </ul>
<p><u>Inquiry Based Thinking</u>: You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>formulate</b> focused questions and hypotheses,</li> <li>- <b>evaluate</b> existing knowledge,</li> <li>- <b>collect</b> and <b>analyze</b> data, and</li> <li>- <b>draw</b> justifiable conclusions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Reflection Papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of “Film” Assignment</li> </ul>

<p><u>Integrative Thinking:</u> You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>make connections</b> among varied disciplines, domains of thinking, experiences, and situations.</li> <li>- <b>Transfer skills and learning</b> among varied disciplines, domains of thinking, experiences, and situations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Reflection Papers</li> <li>• Collaborative group work for singular holistic analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final exam</li> </ul>
<p><u>Intercultural Thinking:</u> You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>evaluate</b> generalizations about cultural groups,</li> <li>- <b>analyze</b> how cultural beliefs might affect communication across cultures,</li> <li>- <b>evaluate</b> how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple cultural communities, and</li> <li>- <b>untangle</b> competing economic, religious, social or geographical interests of cultural groups in conflict.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research both domestic and international reactions to films in multifaceted contexts</li> <li>• Weekly Reflection Papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of “Film” Assignment</li> </ul>
<p><u>Metacognitive Thinking:</u> You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>evaluate</b> the effectiveness of your project plan or strategy, and</li> <li>- <b>determine</b> the degree of improvement in your knowledge and skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Reflection Papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of “Film” Assignment</li> </ul>

**Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>FYS recommended readings and resources related to the five learning outcomes:</i>  <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/fys/textbook-readings-and-resources/">http://www.marshall.edu/fys/textbook-readings-and-resources/</a></li> <li>2. Ch 5 (CTIC): “The Marshall Experience” <a href="http://www.marshall.edu/fys/textbook-readings-and-resources/">http://www.marshall.edu/fys/textbook-readings-and-resources/</a></li> <li>3. Carl Boggs and Tom Pollard, <i>The Hollywood War Machine: U.S. Militarism and Popular Culture</i>, 2nd ed (New York: Routledge, 2016).</li> </ol>
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## Course Requirements

1. Mobile Technology Assignment (Due: January 17)
2. Weekly Critical Reflection Papers (10)
3. Midterm
4. Final Exam

## Grading Policy

I will calculate your final grade using the following weights:

Weekly Reflection Papers 50%  
Midterm Exam: 25%  
Final Exam: 25%

Percentage ranges for final grades are as follows:

A = 90-100%      B = 80-89%      C = 70-79%      D = 60-69%      F = 0-59%

## Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in this class is crucial to your success as a student. The only way to benefit from class discussions and hands-on learning activities is to be here. Being present and on time for all class meetings is expected. Period.

### EXCUSED ABSENCES

1. University-sponsored academic activities (performing arts, debate and individual events, honors classes, ROTC); official athletic events; other university activities (student government).
2. Student Illness or Critical Illness/Death in the Immediate Family: "Immediate Family" is defined as a spouse/life partner, child, parent, legal guardian, sibling, grandparent or grand- child.  
**\*Routine doctor appointments are not excused. Appointments should be scheduled around your classes.**
3. Short-Term Military Obligation
4. Jury Duty or Subpoena for Court Appearance
5. Religious Holidays

#### Student's Responsibility

- Provide appropriate documentation to Dean of Student Affairs for excused absence. Learn how the process works here: [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug\\_10-11\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_10-11_published.pdf)
- Request opportunity to complete missed work **immediately upon return to class.**
- Be aware that excessive absences—whether excused or unexcused—may affect your ability to earn a passing grade.

- Regardless of the nature of the excused absence, you are responsible for completing all coursework **prior to the end of the semester**.

### **Make-up work for Excused Absences**

Because FYS is an interactive class, students who miss class due to University-excused activities will be provided with an alternative assignment that connects to the activities in the missed class session.

### **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

- If you miss two classes, I will issue a warning.
- If you miss a third class:
  - You will receive an automatic one letter grade deduction in the course.
  - We will conference to discuss your standing and develop a plan of improvement. If you meet its criteria, you may have the chance to earn back the letter grade deduction.
- If you miss a fourth class, the previous letter grade deduction stands, regardless of improvement plan results.
- Subsequent missed classes will result in an additional letter grade deduction for each absence.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Weekly Reflection Paper**

**50 points each (500 points all together)**

Each week, you will analyze a film through different disciplinary lenses in ten separate critical reflection papers (length: 1.5 pages). By the end of the semester, you will have written over fifteen pages of material that builds upon itself. For full credit, students should intelligently (and briefly) quote their selected films as well as the assigned readings and other sources that you find about your films. Use these references to analyze the films. You may either focus on one film or explain how the readings inform two or more films. You will cite the readings, Facebook pages, etc. with footnotes. Each week, I will assign a writing prompt in class on Thursday and you will upload your full journal to Blackboard by the following Tuesday night at 11:59 pm.

CLASS SCHEDULE  
Reading/Assignment Due

**CR=Critical Reflection**

**Week 1**

T, 01/10

Introduction

R, 01/12

Mohammed, "Ignorance in Context" in *The (Dis)information Age*.

**Week 2**

T, 01/17

Embedded Library Session -Introduction: Drinko Library 349  
**Mobile Technology Assignment Due**

R, 01/19

Information Literacy-Source Evaluation: Drinko Library 349

**Week 3**

T, 01/24

Information Literacy-Special Collections: Morrow Library

R, 01/26

Information Literacy-Government Documents: Morrow Library

**Week 4**

T, 01/31

Documentary- Arte France & Les Films d'Ice, "Operation Hollywood: How The Pentagon Shapes And Censors The Movies" (2012) **CR1**

R, 02/02

Boggs & Pollard: 1. Media culture in the imperial system

**Week 5**

T, 02/07

Boggs & Pollard: 2. Militarism in American popular culture **CR2**

R, 02/09

Boggs & Pollard: 2. Militarism in American popular culture

**Week 6**

T, 02/14

Boggs & Pollard: 3. War and cinema: the historical legacy **CR3**

R, 02/16

Boggs & Pollard: 3. War and cinema: the historical legacy

**Week 7**

T, 02/21

Boggs & Pollard: 4. The Vietnam Syndrome **CR5**

R, 02/23

Boggs & Pollard: 4. The Vietnam Syndrome

**Week 8**

T, 02/28

Documentary- Newsworld, "Hollywood and The Pentagon: A Dangerous Liaison" (2003); Midterm Review **CR6**

R, 03/02

Midterm

<b>Week 9</b>		
T, 03/07	Boggs & Pollard: 5. Recycling the Good War	
R, 03/09	Boggs & Pollard: 5. Recycling the Good War	<b>CR7</b>
<b>Week 10</b>		
T, 03/14	Boggs & Pollard: 6. Cinematic warfare in the new world order	
R, 03/16	Boggs & Pollard: 6. Cinematic warfare in the new world order	<b>CR8</b>
<b>Week 11</b>		
T, 03/21	<b>Spring Break</b>	
R, 03/23	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>Week 12</b>		
T, 03/28	Boggs & Pollard: 7. Hollywood after 9/11	
R, 03/30	Boggs & Pollard: 7. Hollywood after 9/11	
<b>Week 13</b>		
T, 04/04	Boggs & Pollard: Postscript: Blowback and American Sniper	<b>CR9</b>
R, 04/06	Boggs & Pollard: Postscript: Blowback and American Sniper	
<b>Week 14</b>		
T, 04/11	American Sniper (2014)	
R, 04/13	American Sniper (2014)	
<b>Week 15</b>		
T, 04/18	The Matrix (1998)	
R, 04/20	The Matrix (1998)	
<b>Week 16</b>		
T, 04/25	<b>Smith, “The Marshall Experience”</b>	
R, 04/27	<b>Smith, “The Marshall Experience”</b>	<b>CR10</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Thursday, May 4, 8-10am</b>	





