

Marshall University
FYS 100 Syllabus

Course Title/Number	First Year Seminar: Propaganda in the Movies
Semester/Year	Fall 2016
Days/Time	Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45
Location	SH 334
Instructor	Dr. Stephen M. Underhill
Office	Smith Hall 248
Phone	(304) 696-3020
E-Mail	underhills@marshall.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday: 10:50-1:50 Wednesday: 10:00-2:00 Thursday: 10:50-1:50; 3:15-6:15 Please e-mail me in advance of your arrival, if possible
University Policies	By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/ . 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"> - revise your search strategies and employ appropriate research tools, - integrate relevant information from reliable sources, - question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and - use information in an ethical manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching a film and its historical context • Learning how to use library resources • Learning about Alternative types of sources • Weekly reflection papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam
<p><u>Inquiry Based Thinking</u>: You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formulate focused questions and hypotheses, - evaluate existing knowledge, - collect and analyze data, and - draw justifiable conclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Reflection Papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of “Film” Assignment

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

Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>FYS recommended readings and resources related to the five learning outcomes:</i> http://www.marshall.edu/fys/textbook-readings-and-resources/ 2. Ch 5 (CTIC): “The Marshall Experience” http://www.marshall.edu/fys/textbook-readings-and-resources/ 3. Tricia Jenkins, <i>The CIA in Hollywood: How the Agency Shapes Film and Television</i> (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016)

4. Carl Boggs and Tom Pollard, *The Hollywood War Machine: U.S. Militarism and Popular Culture* (New York: Routledge, 2016).

Course Requirements/Due Dates

1. Weekly Critical Reflection Papers (10)
2. Midterm
3. GEAR Upload (more information to come)
4. Final Exam: May 6, 2016: 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Grading Policy

I will calculate your final grade using the following weights:

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

GEAR Upload: CR/NC (students earning NC for the GEAR upload will receive an Incomplete for the course)

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

- 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. Rather than create ten separate documents, you will create one document that will serve as a journal with ten separate entries, a journal that you will reference as you advance throughout the semester. 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. At the end of the semester, you will upload the full document to a Marshall webpage called GEAR. You must complete this final step to complete the class. 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, 8/23

Introduction

R, 8/25

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

Week 2

T, 8/30

Documentary- Newsworld, "Hollywood and The Pentagon: A Dangerous Liaison" (2003)

R, 9/1

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

Week 3

T, 9/6

Boggs & Pollard: 2. Militarism in American popular culture

CR1

R, 9/8

Boggs & Pollard: 2. Militarism in American popular culture

Week 4

T, 9/13

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

CR2

R, 9/15

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

Week 5

T, 9/20

Boggs & Pollard: 4. The Vietnam syndrome: politics and cinema

CR3

R, 9/22

Boggs & Pollard: 4. The Vietnam syndrome: politics and cinema

Week 6

T, 9/27

Boggs & Pollard: 5. Recycling the good war

CR4

R, 9/29

No Class

Week 7

T, 10/4

Boggs & Pollard: 6. Cinematic warfare in the new world order

CR5

R, 10/6

Boggs & Pollard: 6. Cinematic warfare in the new world order

Week 8

T, 10/11

Boggs & Pollard: 7. Hollywood after 9/11

CR6

R, 10/13

Midterm

Week 9		
T, 10/18	Boggs & Pollard: Postscript: Blowback and American sniper	
R, 10/20	Boggs & Pollard: Postscript: Blowback and American sniper	
Week 10		
T, 10/25	Jenkins: Rogues, Assassins, and Buffoons:	CR7
R, 10/27	Jenkins: Rogues, Assassins, and Buffoons	
Week 11		
T, 11/1	Jenkins: Opening the Doors	CR8
R, 11/3	Jenkins: Opening the Doors	
Week 12		
T, 11/8	No Class	CR9
R, 11/10	No Class	
Week 13		
T, 11/15	Jenkins: Necessary and Competent	
R, 11/17	Jenkins: Necessary and Competent	
Week X		
T, 11/22	FALL BREAK	
R, 11/24	FALL BREAK	
Week 14		
T, 11/29	Jenkins: Legal and Ethical Implications	CR10
R, 12/1	Jenkins: Legal and Ethical Implications	
Week 15		
12/6	Smith, "The Marshall Experience"	
R, 12/8	Smith, "The Marshall Experience"	
Final Exam	Tuesday, 12/13:	8-10am

