

HIS 3085: WORLD WAR II THROUGH FILM

History & Political Science Department

Point Loma Nazarene University

2 Units

Fall 2023 Quad 1

Meeting days: Tuesdays

Meeting times: 2:45-6:25pm

Meeting location: FR 201

Final Exam: Oct. 10

Professor: Dr. Kelli McCoy

Phone: 619-849-2438

E-mail: KelliMccoy@pointloma.edu

Office: Colt 114

Office hours: After our class

Other days/times by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will seek to better understand the main causes and events of the Second World War, while also exploring the relationship between war, history, and cinema. Film is both a primary source and secondary source, and provides us with ample opportunity to discuss the relationship between the two and the role of perspective in shaping sources. Along with discussing the role of cinema during and after the war, we'll also be learning about the major theatres of the war, the Holocaust, the treatment of POWs and civilians, the internment of Japanese Americans, and life on the home front.

PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

HISTORY PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate the relationship between primary and secondary materials by assessing a historian's work and recognizing the evidence used to construct that historical argument. (Assessed through film review and book review.)
- Present and analyze, in written or oral presentation, different perspectives on an event from the past. (Assessed through film review and book review.)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Explain many of the major events of the Second World War.
2. Analyze the relationship between cinema and war during World War II.
3. Analyze the significance and use of film as both a primary and secondary source.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Content of this Course

We can't even hope to fully cover every aspect of such a vast war in this one semester, nor will we try. However, I've selected films and reading assignments that give us at least a glimpse into multiple important facets of the war: the modern weapons, tactics, and battles that raged in air, land, and sea; the ideological battles about racial and national superiority; the targeting of civilians, including the Holocaust; and what was happening on the home front for Americans. This course not only uses film to teach about these subjects, but as a way of interrogating film as a source. How do these films present the historical information? From whose perspective, based on which sources, and to what effect? I've selected films that span a broad range of time periods, beginning with those made during the war, so that we can see how the films themselves have changed over time.

As you know, this course deals entirely with the most horrific war the world has ever seen, and each week we will be viewing either primary source (real) footage or secondary source (fictional/staged) footage of the war. Some of these films are rated R. All of them are, in ways, devastating, as they explore the worst things that humans can do to each other. Some worse, even, than it seems possible to imagine. Violence in all of its forms—including physical, sexual, and emotional—will be a part of the films we watch, just as it was a constant part of the war. If you think that this will be particularly difficult for you or have any concerns about this, please speak with me about it as soon as possible. That being said, there will also be a constant reminder that there is hope, that there is goodness in the world, and that there are ways of resisting evil ideologies. One of those ways is by studying history and taking seriously the task of remembering and preserving the truth. That is part of why we won't shy away from the horrors of the war, not for entertainment, but to solemnly remember them and think about what they mean for the history, present, and future of the world. As Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate said in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, "I have tried to keep memory alive... I have tried to fight those who would forget. Because if we forget, we are guilty, we are accomplices."

Participation

Your engagement with the class is a huge component of your success in this course, and also enhances the learning of your classmates. Your participation is therefore evaluated throughout the semester. Since you cannot participate if you do not attend class, attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Since we have only 7 class sessions, it is essential that you attend all of them. You will lose 15 points (out of 100 possible) for each absence. Arriving late or leaving early will be considered ½ an absence. (University-excused absences are an exception and will not affect your grade.) Your participation grade includes attendance and active engagement in

class discussions. A template for the weekly film notes will be discussed in class and provided on Canvas.

Quizzes and Online Discussions

To help you be prepared for our classes and ready for a thoughtful face-to-face conversation, online quizzes and/or discussions will be given regularly via Canvas. Please make sure to do the quizzes and discussions on time. **Quizzes and discussions cannot be made up** if you miss them. It is your responsibility to regularly check Canvas and the syllabus for these assignments.

Final Exam: Film Review

You will select two of the films to expand your film notes and write a 3-4 page review in which you discuss the historical context and accuracy of the film. More instructions will be given in class and posted on Canvas.

Book Review

You will select a Holocaust memoir to read and write a 3-4 page book review about it. More instructions will be given in class and posted on Canvas.

GRADING

Please contact me at any point during the semester if you have questions about the status of your grade. Grades are weighted and will be calculated as follows:

Assignment distribution by percentage:		Letter grades assigned as follows:	
• Participation	25%	A=93-100	C=73-76.99
• Film Notes	20%	A-=90-92.99	C-=70-72.99
• Quizzes/ Online Discussions	15%	B+=87-89.99	D+=67-69.99
• Book Review (Holocaust Memoir)	15%	B=83-86.99	D=63-66.99
• Final Exam: Film Review	25%	B-=80-82.99	D-=60-62.99
		C+=77-79.99	F=0-59.99

REQUIRED TEXTS

Films and reading that you are doing for your homework will be accessible through links on Canvas or the library. You do not need to purchase any texts.

COURSE POLICIES

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a

different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	In Class	Homework Due before class on the following week. All links and details are on Canvas. Film notes are due via Canvas after each class period. We'll discuss this in class.
Week 1 Aug 29	Introduction to course Reading/discussion about war and cinema <i>Five Came Back</i> (2017)	Reading/viewing listed on Canvas Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
Week 2 Sept 5	<i>Mrs. Miniver</i> Dir. William Wyler (1942)	Select and request from the library a Holocaust memoir to read. Tell us the title on the Canvas discussion page. Reading about the Nazi use of film as propaganda (on Canvas).
Week 3 Sept 12	<i>Judgment at Nuremburg</i> (1961)	Start reading the Holocaust memoir you selected.
Week 4 Sept 19	<i>The Big Red One</i> (1980)	Reading and quiz/discussion on Canvas
Week 5 Sept 26	<i>Das Boot</i> (1981)	Book review of Holocaust memoir due
Week 6 Oct 3	Film TBD	Reading and quiz/discussion on Canvas
Week 7 Oct 10	Film TBD	Film Review due (that is your Final Exam)