

# **HIS 4090 SEC. 2: WORLD WAR II THROUGH FILM**

History & Political Science Department  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
2 Units  
Spring 2020

**Meeting days:** Mondays

**Meeting times:** 2:45-4:35pm

**Meeting location:** RLC 103

**Final Exam:** Wed. 1:30-4:00pm

**Professor:** Dr. Kelli McCoy

**Phone:** 619-849-2438

**E-mail:** KelliMccoy@pointloma.edu

**Office:** Colt 114

**Office hours:** Mon. 1:30-2:30, Tues. 1:30-3:30, Wed. 1:30-2:30, and by appointment.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a “Special Topics in History” course on the topic of “World War II Through Film.” 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 reviews and book review.)
- Present and analyze, in written or oral presentation, different perspectives on an event from the past. (Assessed through film reviews 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, that it seems possible to imagine. Violence in all of its forms—including physical, sexual, and emotional—will be a frequent 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. If you miss two or more classes, you will lose 15 points (out of 100 possible) for each absence, beginning with the second one. Arriving late or leaving early will be considered ½ an absence. (As stated in the Undergraduate Catalog, there are no excused absences other than in the case of certain university-sponsored events. If this applies to you, it is

your responsibility to provide me with the appropriate documentation no later than one week after the missed class.) Your participation grade includes attendance, active engagement in class discussions, and the weekly film notes. 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 on the reading 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.

**Film Review**

You will select two of the films to expand your film notes and write a 3 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 4-5 page book review about. More instructions will be given in class and posted on Canvas.

**GRADING**

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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	30%	A=93-100	C=73-76.99
• Quizzes/ Online Discussions	10%	A-=90-92.99	C-=70-72.99
• Film Review #1	10%	B+=87-89.99	D+=67-69.99
• Film Review #2	10%	B=83-86.99	D=63-66.99
• Book Review (Holocaust Memoir)	15%	B-=80-82.99	D-=60-62.99
• Final Exam	25%	C+=77-79.99	F=0-59.99

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

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Most of the films will be shown in class.

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**

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All students can and should succeed in this course, so please let me know if there are things I can do to help you. Please speak with me as soon as possible if any problems arise or if you have any questions about how to succeed in this course.

### **Incompletes and Late Assignments**

Please talk with me as soon as possible if for whatever reason you are having trouble completing your work, so that we can find the best solution. All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due, unless otherwise indicated on Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. There are no make-up exams, unless you have contacted me in advance, in which case I *may* allow it depending on the circumstances. Late assignments will generally be subjected to a 10% penalty per day. However, if you contact me *more than 72 hours before the due date* and explain your circumstances (i.e. an unusual number of assignments due in other classes that week), your request for an extension will be considered. Emergencies will be dealt with depending on the individual circumstances. Please ask me for more information if you believe you will need to turn in an assignment late.

**Laptops, Cell Phones, and Recording Devices:** In order to create the most conducive learning environment, all phones should be silenced and not used during class, especially when we are viewing films. No recording of lectures or class discussions is allowed without prior permission from the professor.

### **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. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

### **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.

### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments,

modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

### **PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy**

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

As it says in the Catalog, students are expected to do two hours of preparation for each hour spent in class. I have designed the readings and assignments with this in mind.

**Please note: all communication outside of class will be sent to your PLNU e-mail account. It is absolutely necessary that you regularly check your email and Canvas for any announcements regarding this class.**

### **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

The **PLNU Tutorial Center** offers support with everything you need to succeed — whether it's learning test-taking techniques, getting help from a tutor, using technology to read and write, or editing a research paper. These services are **free** for PLNU undergraduate students. You must schedule appointments 24 hours in advance by phone, email, or in person. See more at <https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/tutorial-services>.

**The Wellness Center** is available for medical, counseling and nutrition services for undergraduate students. Many college students experience strained relationships, stress, anxiety, depression, physical health challenges, and other barriers to learning. The Wellness Center offers help and resources to deal with these kind of issues. The Wellness Center is located on the first floor of Nicholson Commons and is open Monday-Friday, 8 am-12:30 pm and 1:30-4 pm (check website first in case the hours change). They can be reached at

[sdwellnesscenter@pointloma.edu](mailto:sdwellnesscenter@pointloma.edu) or at (619)849-2574. In an emergency after hours, call 911 and PLNU Public Safety at (619)849-2525. See more at <https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/wellness-center>.

**Title IX at PLNU:** As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep any information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, you should know that I have a mandatory reporting responsibility under PLNU policy and federal law, and am required to share any information I receive regarding sexual harassment, discrimination, and related conduct with PLNU's Title IX Coordinator.

PLNU strives to provide a learning and living environment that promotes safety, transparency, personal integrity, civility, mutual respect, and freedom from unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment. Detailed information on discrimination, harassment, and sexual assault policies and processes for getting help and for reporting are available at <https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix>. PLNU's Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Caye Smith, Vice President for Student Development (619-849-2479, Room 303 Nicholson Commons). The Title IX office will seek to maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible, but cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality and the information you share will result in a mandatory report to campus authorities. Students can receive *confidential* support (with the exception of a few critical situations) from the Wellness Center (619-849-2574) or campus pastors in the Office of Spiritual Development (619-849-2655).

## COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Date</b>	<b>In Class</b>	<b>Homework</b> Due before class on the date listed. All links and details are on Canvas.  <b>Film notes are due via Canvas after each class period. We'll discuss this in class.</b>
January 14	Introduction to course <i>World War II in Colour</i> (2009). Episode 1: "The Gathering Storm" (51 min) – Netflix	Read the syllabus and make sure you can log on to Canvas.
January 20	No class for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	View selections from <i>Why We Fight</i> (1942-1943), <i>Memphis Belle</i> (1944), and <i>Saving Private Ryan</i> (1998). Read "Making Sense of Film" Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
January 27	<i>Five Came Back</i> , episodes 1 and 2 (Netflix, 59 min and 67 min)	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)
February 3	<i>Five Came Back</i> , episode 3 (Netflix, 69 min.)	Read selected articles about significant WWII battles/ turning points (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
February 10	<i>Mrs. Miniver</i> (1942). 133 min	Read/view selections from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
February 17	<i>To Hell and Back</i> (1955). 106 min	Read the Holocaust memoir you selected.
February 24	Selections from <i>Judgment at Nuremberg</i> (1961). 179 min	Read the Holocaust memoir you selected. View the TED Talk on Holocaust denial (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
March 2	Selections from <i>Tora! Tora! Tora!</i> (1970). 144 min	Book review of Holocaust memoir due

March 16	<i>The Big Red One</i> (1980). 113 min	Film Review #1 due by end of the week (March 20)
March 23	Selections from <i>Das Boot</i> (1981). 149 min	View films and readings about the Rape of Nanjing (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
March 30	<i>Schindler's List</i> (1993). 197 min	View films and readings about the American home front, including Rosie the Riveter (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
April 6	<i>Schindler's List</i> (1993). 197 min	View films and readings about the internment of Japanese Americans (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
April 13:	Easter Break	View films and readings about the atomic bombs (on Canvas) Complete the quiz/discussion on Canvas
April 20	<i>Tuskegee Airmen</i> (1995). 107 min	Film Review #2 due by end of the week (April 24)
April 27	<i>Unbroken</i> (2014). 137 min	Study for final exam
May 4	Final Exam: Wed. 1:30-4:00pm	