Monday, May 1: HARD COPY at the beginning of class
5-7 pages (1250-1750 words)

In this essay, you are required to perform at least three analyses (close readings), each complete with signal statement, textual evidence, and commentary. In addition, incorporate at least two secondary sources into your essay. At least one of these sources should be used as counterargument.

In your introduction, be sure to set up your analyses by discussing the theme and argument of the work(s) in question. Explain what it is you hope to prove through your analyses. This is your thesis, and it should be arguable—neither opinion nor fact. Avoid evaluative language (“good,” “bad,” “excellent,” etc.); instead, focus on aspects of the work(s) that require elaboration and explanation for your reader to perceive and understand. In your conclusion, reframe your thesis to illuminate your ideas in a wider or different context.

The subject of your essay is ultimately up to you, but please discuss at least one work from the syllabus reading assignments to formulate an argument grounded in literature and/or film. Here’s a list of some themes we’ve discussed (and will discuss) this semester, which you can use as a resource to generate essays topics and your own prompt questions. Feel free to incorporate up to one page of previous writing you’ve done for the course.

- Officer-infantry conflict
- Guerilla warfare, insurgency and counterinsurgency
- Camaraderie narratives
- Definitions of heroism
- Anti-colonial conflict
- Depictions of modern war technology
- Use of culture (music, sports, etc.) in war
- Fascism and anti-fascism
- Representations of the nation at war
- Anti-narrative
- Civilian experiences of war
- Delayed decoding
- Propaganda techniques
- Moral injury
- Women’s military roles
- PTSD/war trauma
- Women’s civilian roles and experiences
- Depictions of violence
- Industrial warfare
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Grading criteria, in order of importance:

- Analyses/close readings. Explain what is important in the evidence, and how the evidence demonstrates a component of your thesis. This criterion also includes a signal statement in each analysis, the sentence that briefly announces what you want your reader to pay attention to just before the evidence.
- Choice of evidence. Quote and/or paraphrase only what you need, and make sure the accompanying analysis refers to specific elements in the evidence, one at a time.
- Thesis. A strong lucid thesis grounds your textual analyses and choice of evidence. One to three sentences at the end of your introduction should suffice for the thesis.
- Paragraph Unity. Each paragraph needs a topic sentence at the beginning or end. Each sentence should be logically connected to what it precedes and follows.
- Strong introduction and conclusion.
- Incorporation of secondary sources and use of counterargument.
- Concise and clear style. Avoid repetition, rambling, and superfluous use of “I” and “me.” Go for a confident, authoritative tone without unnecessary passive voice, impersonal constructions, qualifiers and intensifiers.
- MLA in-text citation and Works Cited. Cited by author and page number. If you mention the author in your signal statement, you do not need it in your citation.
- Grammar