

Film Review Assignment - History 109

As your syllabus states, one of your assignments for this semester is to critically review **three** of the following films. Since a basic knowledge of the era being presented is helpful, I would suggest you wait until the era is introduced to do this assignment. The films are grouped in historical order and must be chosen in that order. It would be a good idea to gather outside data on the films before you watch them. For example, look up "Midway Battle" or "Cuban Missile Crisis" on the internet before watching The Battle of Midway or Thirteen Days. It will help to give you a more informed "eye" as to the accuracy of the film. Feel free to use the internet or outside data - just be sure to "quote" what you find and give the source (in parenthesis is fine). I do not expect you to know-it-all, but do not plagiarize. Give credit where credit is due. Its ok!

The reviews should be approximately two to three pages in length, typed in 12 font, and double spaced. They may be handed in anytime earlier than the due date on your syllabus. Be sure to pick your film from the appropriate section!

I have watched these films. I **do not** want to know what happens in them. (ie. no "book reports") Answer these four topics in order

- **How does the film portray the period and events it describes?**
 - **Based on text, lecture, and the internet, to what extent is the film accurate?**
 - **What is left out of the story?**
 - **What did the film add to your understanding of the period it covered (or did it add anything)?**
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- Be specific and substantiate your observations with specific facts from the film.
 - You must also include at least two short quotes from your text in addition to any internet information, etc. Be sure to put the page number you are referring to. One letter grade off for not including this.
 - Remember an opening statement and a closing statement
 - Film names are underlined or italicized, not "quoted"

The library has an excellent collection of the KPBS American History series

on video. If you wish to watch the videos which correspond to the periods represented in these films and compare or contrast what is presented, that would be fine. They are an excellent way to supplement the class and readings.

Films

First film review:

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Broken Promises (West) | Riding the Rails (Depression) |
| How the West was Won (West) | Far and Away (Progressive Era) |
| Inherit the Wind (Scopes Trial) | Citizen Kane (Progressive Era) |
| Fight for the River (WWI) | Hearts of the World (WWI) |
| Hell's Angels (WWI) | The Pershing Story (WWI) |
| Guns of August (WWI) | King of the Hill (Depression) |
| Grapes of Wrath (Depression) | |

Second film review:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Fighting Sullivans (WWII) | Patton (WWII) |
| Memphis Belle (WWII) | In Which We Serve (WWII) |
| Midway (WWII) | Edge of Darkness (WWII) |
| Night and Fog (WWII) | The Longest Day (WWII) |
| Saving Private Ryan (WWII) | The Fighting Seabees (WWII) |
| Sergeant York (WWI) | Flags of our Fathers (WWII) |

Third film review:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| The Bridges at Toko-Ri (Korean War) | The Day the Earth Caught Fire (CW) |
| Seven Days in May (Cold War) | JFK |
| Exodus (Arab Israeli conflict) | Apollo 13 (Space race) |
| Rebel Without a Cause (50s) | All the President's Men (Nixon) |
| Thirteen Days (Cuban Missile Crisis) | |

