“Great battles change the entire course of events, create new standards of values, new moods, in armies and in nations.”
---Winston Churchill

“Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun”
---Mao Zedong

“War, what is it good for, absolutely nothing.
War, what is it good for, absolutely nothing.
War is something that I despise, for it means destruction of innocent lives, for it means tears in thousands of mothers' eyes when their sons go out to fight to give their lives.”
---Barret Strong, Norman Whitfield/Edwin Starr


War has been part of the human experience from the beginning. It has been waged with guns and swords, as well as with symbols and ideas. In this course, we explore the ways in which war and opposition to war have been represented throughout history by using the tools and texts of political science, sociology, history, literature, music, and the visual arts.

During the first semester we will try to develop and use analytical, critical, and emotional tools to get an understanding of the phenomenon of war. We will look at war as represented in political propaganda, art and photography, film and television, music, and on the Internet. We will use the book *War is a force that gives us meaning* by Chris Hedges as the backdrop for our other readings, discussions, and ruminations. During the second semester we will take a closer look at specific themes and conflicts through the cultural lenses we briefly explored in the Fall semester. The culmination of the course is an individual project selected by the student at the end of the first semester and presented to the class at the end of the second semester. Throughout the course, we will use what we are learning and discussing to reflect on current conflicts such as the war in Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the War on Terror.
Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted as a seminar. Students are expected to come to class prepared and participate fully in the discussions. Assignments must be submitted electronically and on time. All written work must consistently adhere to a writing style manual of the student’s choice (e.g., Chicago, Turabian, MLA, etc.) Attendance is mandatory and tardiness is unacceptable. All students must adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of The Honors College and Florida International University.

The course consists of an introduction (weeks 1-2), five two-week sections (weeks 3-12), and a conclusion (weeks 13-14).

Thought pieces and class presentations (30%)
Students will submit three short papers (of no more than four pages) on an assigned topic based on course readings and class lectures.

Group Project (20%)
Groups will select a topic in consultation with the instructor that builds upon class readings and discussions. The group will jointly write and submit a ten-page paper and present the project to the class during the last week of the semester. Multi-media presentations are encouraged.

Final Exam (30%)
Students will be given a take home final exam consisting of three questions. The questions will draw upon the readings and materials presented during the semester.

Class Participation (20%)
Class participation counts!

Required Texts and Materials:

Students will be required to purchase two books for the Fall semester. Other readings are either on reserve at the library or are available on-line. Students will also be required to watch television news, documentaries, and movies.

On reserve:

Books:

Web-based news media:
On-line newspapers from around the world
*Al-Ahram Weekly (Egypt)*; *Ha'aretz (Israel)*; *The Tehran Times*; *Al Jazeera in English*;
*BBC World Service*; *Fox News*; *The Nation*; *National Review*; *CNN*.

Class Schedule:

Please note that the calendar is subject to change. There will be one class session that will take place off-campus.

Week 1  Introduction, Course Preview, Kinds of War

Week 2  Battles that Changed the Course of History
Read Weir, particularly sections on Arbela, Tenochtitlan, Tours, Tet; and assigned web sources on *Kosovo Polje*, and Conquest of Granada; Hedges, pp. 1-61.

Week 3  The Marketing of War: Propaganda
Clark, pp. 105-161; O’Shaughnessy, pp. 1-37; 193-237.

Week 4  The Marketing of War: Propaganda
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Pictures of War: Art &amp; Photography</strong></td>
<td>Perlmutter, pp. 1-64.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Pictures of War: Art &amp; Photography (continued)</strong></td>
<td>Moeller: Introduction; Knightley: browse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Pictures of War: Art &amp; Photography (continued)</strong></td>
<td>Second Short Assignment, Selection of Group Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Selections from Monegal, et. al. (to be distributed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Watching the War: Movies</strong></td>
<td>Cinema Combat: Hollywood Goes to War (101 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Perlmutter, pp. 65-152.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Watching the War: Movies (continued)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Watching the War: Television</strong></td>
<td>Perlmutter, pp. 153-231.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[Iraq Video Archive (anti-US) Home Town Link - US Armed Forces TV]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Watching the War: Television</strong></td>
<td>Perlmutter, pp. 153-231.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[Iraq Video Archive (anti-US) Home Town Link - US Armed Forces TV]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Third Short Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>War is a force that gives us meaning</strong></td>
<td>Review and discussion of the book by Chris Hedges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hedges, pp. 142-185.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of Group Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of Group Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>