

Strategic art film program, lessons learned from classic films

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Have you ever watched a commercial movie based on history, and wondered about the rest of the story: Which parts are true? What's the historical context? What happened after the high drama moments of the movie? Volunteer USAWC faculty members offer insights and lead discussions for the classic films of the Strategic Film Series offered throughout the year.

A series of classical films, addressing strategic and operational themes, are scheduled to be shown – and illuminated with historical setting -- throughout the academic year usually on Tuesday evenings, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m., in Wil Waschoe Auditorium. These free, informal viewings are open to all students, faculty, and staff.

“Movies, like case studies, can be an effective way to educate the military practitioner in the operational art,” said Richard Lacquement, dean of the School for Strategic Landpower. “Clausewitz stated that in regard to education, theory and reality must be reconciled, and using movies to accomplish this reconciliation is viewed as an effective venue to do so,” he said.

The purpose of this program is to offer students context and insight into selected episodes in the evolution of warfare from antiquity to the present. The refreshments coordinated by members of AUSA is an extra benefit.

“This year we are asking the International Fellows office to participate in a much more active way than in previous years,” said retired faculty member Scott Buran. “Last year we incorporated the Vietnamese IF to participate in the moderation of the film ‘*Dien Bien Phu*.’ His perspective regarding the battle and the discussion offered was superb.”

“We realized that incorporating our international colleagues into the moderation could only enhance the film program,” said Buran.

“We make a point of selecting films that complement the curriculum,” said Buran. There are a significant number of influential, important, and milestone war films throughout cinematic history, he said. “For example, ‘*Eye in the Sky*’ will be shown when the students are studying ethics in the DCLM

leadership curriculum” he said

Another film, the 'Pentagon Wars', is a great fit with studies in the Defense Management course where students learn about force development, resource management and strategic requirements to name a few. "The film is a comedy and a parody on the government procurement system," said Fred Gellert, Professor of Resource Management. "We use the film as a vehicle to discuss the reality of the weapons procurement system using the history of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. It is a fascinating case study in leadership and management," he said.

The Association of the U.S. Army supports the USAHEC program which is open to all students, staff, faculty, and retirees. They coordinate the refreshments that add to the camaraderie of the evening.

Retired Col. Jerry Comello, a former faculty member of DMSPO and current president of the CB&CV Chapter of AUSA is the man behind the idea, said Buran. "With each passing year the program continues to evolve and become more relevant as it pertains to the curriculum and real world events," he said.

The following list shows what movies are going to be offered in academic year 2017. Watch for emails about the link between the film and the curriculum.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Film</u>	<u>Moderator</u>
Mon, 22 Aug	Live in Baghdad	Carol Kerr
Tu, 30 Aug	Waterloo	Dr. Lacquement
Tu, 6 Sep	Thirteen Days	Jef Troxell
Tu, 13 Sep	Caesar at Alesia	John Bonin
Mon, 19 Sep	Gettysburg	Chris Keller
Tu, 27 Sep	Eye in the Sky	John Kallerson
We, 5 Oct	Court Martial of Billy Mitchell	Andrew Hill
Tu, 11 Oct	Ike: Countdown to D-Day	G.K. Cunningham
Tu, 18 Oct	Paris 1919	Ray Millen

Tu, 25 Oct	Too Big To Fail	Col. Beckert
Tu, 1 Nov	The Path to War	Frank Jones
Tu, 8 Nov	SGT York	Col. Mastriano
Tu, 15 Nov	The Gate Keepers	Larry Goodson
Tu, 6 Dec	MacArthur	Don Boose
Tu, 13 Dec	Bastogne/Band of Brothers	Jim DiCrocco
We, 14 Dec	Breaking Point/Band of Brothers	Col. Crean
Thu, 5 Jan	Man Who Never Was	TBD
Tu, 10 Jan	Sand Pebbles	G.K. Cunningham
Tu, 17 Jan	Dien Bien Phu	Jim DiCrocco
Tu, 24 Jan	Tora, Tora, Tora	Al Lord
Tu, 31 Jan	Midway	Al Lord
Tu, 7 Feb	Teahouse of the August Moon	Dwight Raymond
Tu, 14 Feb	A Bridge Too Far	Karl Bopp
Tu, 21 Feb	Pentagon Wars	Fred Gellert
Tu, 28 Feb	We Were Soldiers	Col. Crean
Tu, 7 Mar	The Big Short	Col. Beckert
Tu, 14 Mar	Battle of Britain	Lynn Scheel
Tu, 21 Mar	Merrill's Marauders	Jim DiCrocco
Tu, 28 Mar	Fog of War	Karl Bopp
Mon, 3 Apr	A War	IF -- Denmark

Tu, 11 Apr	Argo	TBD
Tu, 18 Apr	TBD	Holly Mayer
Tu, 25 Apr	Conspiracy	Ray Millen
Tu, 2 May	Tunes of Glory	Jim Shufelt
Mon, 8 May	Ride with the Devil	Chris Keller
Tu, 16 May	Andersons Platoon or Patton	Jim DiCrocco & Jim Shufelt
Tu, 23 May	Pork Chop Hill	Don Boose

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