Wars and Genocides, in different parts of the world, have profoundly affected the course of world History since the beginning of the 20th Century. The way their history, meaning and impact are being dealt with, play a central role in shaping national identities and has become the focus of intense debates. Films participate in this debate and contribute to the contentious development of different collective memories of these events by the nations involved.

This course will explore the relationship of war and genocide films to written history. More than ten films will be screened, on different examples of Wars or Genocides (WWI, WWII, Algerian War, Vietnam War, War(s) in the Middle East, Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda, Genocide of the Armenians, the Holocaust, etc.). It will discuss the theoretical basis of such a study of cinematographic representations as well as different themes connected to the characteristics of wars and their impact on collective Memory (such as views of heroism, soldiers as victims, Prisoners of war, the civil population behind the lines, representation of colonial wars, perpetrators of war crimes, etc.

**Requirements:**

**Class discussion:** Students are expected to attend all classes, read all the assigned material (2 articles per week) and contribute meaningfully to class discussions as evidence of apprehension and comprehension of the materials.

**Presentations by students:** Each student will present at least 2 articles, with questions for discussion. The written presentation should be sent to me and to all the students the latest on the Sunday evening, preceding the assigned day for the presentation.

**Final Paper:** In 8-12 pages, develop a critical analytical essay of the film(s) proposed by you and explore its value as an historical and political instrument. The focus should not be so much with the film’s adherence to factual accuracy but more about how it is an historical artifact that speaks to the times and audience as well as its makers.

**Week 1 – 16/10/2018**

Introduction, Expectations, and Discussion of Course Requirements and Objectives.

**Film:** *The Army of Shadows*, Jean-Pierre Melville, 145 minutes.

**Week 2 – 23/10/2018 : Cinema – History – Memory**

Week 3 – 30/10/2018 – Filming Wars, Films on Genocides


Week 4 – 6/11/2018 – Form and Content. The Lebanon War.


Film: Waltz with Bashir, Ari Folman, 2008, 90 minutes

Week 5 – 13/11/2018 – Fighting the Good Fight, WWII


Film: Saving Private Ryan, Steven Spielberg, 1998, 169 minutes.

Week 6 – 20/11/2018 – Breaking Taboos, WWI


Film: Joyeux Noël (Merry Christmas), Christian Carion, 2005, 116 minutes.

Week 7 – 27/11/2018 – Wars of Liberation


**Film: Battle of Algiers**, Gillo Pontecorvo, 1971, 121 minutes.

**Week 8 – 4/12/2018 – The Vietnam War**


**Film: Platoon**, Oliver Stone, 1987, 120 minutes.

**Week 9 – 11/12/2018 – The War in Afghanistan**


**Film: Restrepo**, Tim Hetherington and Sebastian Junger, 2010, 93 minutes.

**Week 10 – 18/12/2018 – The Holocaust**


**Film: Night and Fog**, Alain Resnais, 1956, 32 minutes
Or: *Schindler’s List*, Steven Spielberg, 1994, 195 minutes

**Week 11 – 25/12/2018 – The Genocide in Cambodia**


**Film: The Killing Fields**, Roland Joffe, 1984, 141 minutes.
**Week 12 – 1/1/2019 – The Genocide in Rwanda**


**Film: Sometimes in April**, Raoul Peck, 2008, 140 minutes.

**Week 13 – 8/12/2018 – Memory Issues**


**Film: Katyn**, Andrzej Wajda, 2009, 122 minutes.

The movies or some of the articles may be replaced by others during the semester.