

Myth Paper:

“The myth of war,” writes Chris Hedges, “sells and legitimizes the drug of war.” That is, representations affect our understandings and actions. Our (often mythic) understanding of reality affects our response to actual reality. Your challenge is to examine this idea in a specific context. That is, you must find some text, some representation (that is, a movie, a television show, an advertisement, a story, a book, etc.) of war—actual battle, **or** culture war—and analyze it in terms of its mythmaking. To repeat, this paper need not be about actual war, but could focus on gender, or hegemony or... well, you are limited only by your imagination.

Once you select the text you wish to analyze, ask yourself some of the following questions: How does your text sell and legitimize the drug of war? If your text resists such readings, how does it achieve its myth busting? The tools that we have used in this class—race, class and gender analysis, for example, can be profitably applied here. Too, if useful, you can use Nietzschean ideas here. Note that by debunking myth you are not judging the quality of the text you choose—texts can be powerful and emotionally potent in their mythmaking. Indeed, that is selling the drug of war, no?