

PEACE STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE  
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND  
MULTIMEDIA STUDIES *present*

A Lecture by

**Jon Lewis, Ph.D.**

Professor of English  
Oregon State University

Jon Lewis is a professor in the English Department at Oregon State University where he has taught film and cultural studies since 1983. He has published eight books, including *The Road to Romance and Ruin: Teen Films and Youth Culture*, which won a *Choice Magazine Academic Book of the Year Award*; *Whom God Wishes to Destroy . . . Francis Coppola and the New Hollywood*; *The New American Cinema*; *Hollywood v. Hard Core: How the Struggle over Censorship Saved the Modern Film Industry*, a *New York Times* New and Noteworthy paperback; *The End of Cinema as We Know It: American Film in the Nineties*, *American Film: A History, Looking Past the Screen: Case Studies in American Film History* and for the British Film Institute's Film Classics series, *The Godfather*.



**4 pm, Thursday, October 31**  
**Performing Arts Building (PA) 101**  
**Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton**

**"Bombing Crazy People and Retards is Bad P.R.:  
The Aesthetics and Politics of the American war Film"**

Can a well-made, engaging war film also accommodate a desired anti-war sentiment or pacifism? Or is warfare itself so cinematic, so sensational, that in the very effort to reproduce wartime conditions on screen, filmgoers can't resist viewing warfare as a form of visual pleasure? The notion of war as visual and aural spectacle is made even more complicated by the advent of war-themed computer and console games (the *Call of Duty* series, for example), where engagement involves a degree of participation (in the war-like action on screen), and where the narrative exposition that provides context to battle scenes on the big screen is supplanted by non-stop action, absent a coherent narrative context, absent politics. Dr. Lewis will discuss the ironic relationship between visual and aural spectacle and the inevitable liberal-left political argument about the folly of war that characterizes the genre, using examples from such films as *The Big Red One*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *MASH*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Platoon*, *Blackhawk Down*, *Behind Enemy Lines*, and *Three Kings*.

**This lecture is free and open to the public.**

More information at [gsim@fau.edu](mailto:gsim@fau.edu) or 561-297-2050.

*Please call or e-mail five working days in advance of the event if a special accommodation for a disability is necessary.*



**FAU**

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