Peace Studies Program and the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies present

A Lecture by

Jon Lewis, Ph.D.
Professor of English
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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 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.