

**Dissident Heroes: Clint Eastwood's
Flags of Our Fathers and *Letters from Iwo Jima***

1. Assessing the position of the movies in the tradition of US war films and war narratives in general and those of WW II in particular in which – and, to a significant degree, against which – the movies are situated.
2. Analyzing Eastwood's effective ways of combining personal individual biographies/histories and public historical events.
3. Looking at the narrative structures of the films:
Flags of Our Fathers: 3 different plots (battle, promotion tour three/twosome, veterans/next generation), 2 different time levels (battle itself/promotion tour Jan./Feb.1945; Bradley Jr.'s book & research around 2000); the sound track alternates between live voices and voice-over, the mode oscillates between biopic, documentary, and Hollywood.
Letters from Iwo Jima: Narrative, flash backs, frame, chronology.
4. Some observations on how the films questions – also on a meta-level – the 'reality' created by the (visual) media and staged performances
5. Discussion of the films' contemporary socio-cultural/political relevance in 2006 /07.

Selected Bibliography:

1.Primary Reading

Bradley, James, with Ron Powers. *Flags of Our Fathers*. New York: Bantam, 2000.
Kakehashi, Kumiko. *Letters from Iwo Jima*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 2007.
Films: Clint Eastwood: *Flags of Our Fathers* (2006); *Letters from Iwo Jima* (2006)

2. Critical Reading:

Basinger, Jeanine. "The World War II Combat Film: Definition." In: David Slocum, ed. *Hollywood and War. The Film Reader*. New York & London: Routledge, 2006, 175-181.
Hölbling, Walter. "The Second World War: American Writing." In: Kate McLoughlin, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to British and American War Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009, 212-225.
Jones, Dorothy B. "The Hollywood War Film: 1942-1944." *Hollywood Quarterly* 1:1 (Oct. 1945), 1-19.
Larson, Cedric. "The Domestic Motion Picture Work of the Office of War Information." *Hollywood Quarterly* 3:4 (1948/49), 434-443.
Slocum, David J. "General Introduction: Seeing Through American War Cinema." In: J. Slocum, David. *Hollywood and War. The Film Reader*. New York & London: Routledge, 2006, 1-30.