

# American Cinema II

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War Movies / World War II

## A bit of History

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- WWI: 1914-1918
- 1929: Wall Street Crash – The Great Depression Era
- 1939: Germany invades Poland. WWII starts.
- Pearl Harbor: December 7, 1941
- “Use it up, wear it out, make do or do without”

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- Population of US before WWII: around 130 m.
  - 1940: 9 m unemployed
  - 1943: less than 1 m unemployed
  - 15-16 m men served in WWII (around 25% of men)
  - June 1944: D-Day
  - August 1945: Hiroshima and Nagasaki
  - Around 400.000 men died (and many more injured)

# The three stages of War Films

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- The before
- The during
- And the after

# Characters

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- The leader
- The young soldiers
- The funny guy
- The lover
- Newly married or recent father
- Racial types
- Examples of different social classes

## Some common elements

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- Receiving and sending letters
- Photographs
- Listening to the radio (e.g. news, war announcements, baseball games)
- Spontaneous events to relieve the tension and/or boredom
- Burials
- Reflections on the nature of the enemy



