

Study Questions: Week One

How does the first half of the *Full Metal Jacket* relate to the second?

What forms of humiliation are on display in the basic training portion of the film?

What sorts of insults does the drill instructor use to communicate with his troops?

What is the purpose of the scapegoat?

What examples of irony can you find in the film? For what end?

What significance can you attribute to the billboards that appear in the second half of the film?

Can you find any points of comparison between *Full Metal Jacket* and the earlier Kubrick film you saw, *Paths of Glory*?

What quotes by Joker, by Laurence, and by Sgt. Hartman stick with you?

What do they say about the characters who speak them?

What does it mean to be “born to kill?”

How does sound function in the film?

How are we to understand Joker’s act of killing?

How are we to understand the women in the film as well as the references to women?