Homosocial Bonding in Film

How men are portrayed in cinema.
How the American masculinity is changing (and not).
How male-male relationships are represented.
A discussion of traditional masculinity shaping new forms of masculinity.
Homosexuality

- OED: The quality of being homosexual
- OED: A person who has a sexual propensity for his or her own sex; esp. one whose sexual desires are directed wholly or largely towards people of the same sex.

Homosociality

- of, relating to, or involving social relationships between persons of the same sex and esp. between men
  - ‘Friendships’
Thesis

- Male homosocial relationships in film are represented by the context of violence and aggression, traits associated with traditional forms of masculinity, particularly in war films and westerns.
Top Gun (1986)
Complications

• “film has profound implications for both the **cinematic construction** of American masculinity…and for… **representation of queer sexuality**”

• “**homophobia**-in that the possibility of homosocial bonds might include homosexuality and had to be rigorously and violently denied”
War Films

- Thin Red Line
- Full Metal Jacket
- Saving Private Ryan
- Letters from Iwo Jima
- Thirty Seconds over Tokyo
- Platoon
- Jarhead
- Lone Survivor
- Black Hawk Down
- The Deer Hunter
Thirty Seconds over Tokyo (1944)
Jarhead (2005)
Jarhead (2005)

• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5V5BO5gXzE
Westerns
The (Homosexual) Cowboy

Brokeback Mountain (2005)
Brokeback Mountain (2005)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xFclMNiuvl
Bibliography