

**Paper #2 [5-6 pages]**

**DUE:** Tuesday February 22nd, beginning of class

- Must be typed, double-spaced, 1" or less margins
- Must be proofread for grammatical, typographic and spelling errors.

The image of a naked or bare-chested "male" character has been an important image in several of the films we've seen this quarter: *Deliverance*, *Beau Travail*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Southern Comfort*. Use the following quote from Dyer's essay "White Man's Muscles", to explore the representation of the "white male" body in one of these films. He argues that the display of the white male body presents a problem, one that a muscular physique seeks to ameliorate. He writes,

"A naked body is a vulnerable body. This is so in the most fundamental sense—the bare body has no protection from the elements—but also in a social sense. Clothes are bearers of prestige, notably of wealth, status and class: to be without them is to lose prestige. Nakedness may also reveal the inadequacies of the body by comparison with social ideals.... Dyer, 146

You will need to re-read the essay and contextualize the utilized quote within the larger argument of Dyer's article. You are, of course, free to use other quotes from Dyer and are encouraged to use quotes from other sources we've read this quarter. Depending upon which film you analyze, Dyer's emphasis on the male body in a colonial setting may or may not be pertinent to your argument. It will be helpful to limit your discussion to a detailed analysis of one or two scenes [at most].