World History

*Paths of Glory* assignment

*Instructions: You will write a* ***2-2.5 page essay****, with standard MLA formatting. You may work with one partner on this assignment.* Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Stanley Kubrick’s film *Paths of Glory*, what is his ***commentary*** on war as it relates to the following: 1) patriotism 2) violence/warfare 3) humanity 4) the enemy?

*Preparation:* (you do not need to respond to *all* of these questions in your essay, but you must have **one paragraph for each topic**)

1. Patriotism: Respond to either/both of the following:
   1. Respond to the scene where General Paul Mireau walks the trenches just before the war, saying “Ready to kill more Germans?” repeatedly to the soldiers.
   2. Compare the general’s statement that patriotism is reason enough to fight, versus Colonel Dax calling patriotism “the last refuge of a scoundrel.”
2. Violence/warfare:
   1. Compare the soldiers’ versus general’s perceptions of the Ant Hill objective.
   2. What, ultimately, is Kubrick’s statement on war? What film techniques does he use to communicate these views?
3. Humanity:
   1. Compare conditions/events experienced by soldiers versus the colonel.
   2. How does warfare bring out our best selves? How does it bring out our worst selves?
   3. What is the significance of the soldiers singing with the German woman at the end of the movie?
4. The enemy: Who is the enemy, according to Kubrick? How can you tell (film techniques, characters’ quotations/characteristics, plot elements, etc.)? Who, if anyone, is innocent?