

Hollywood Cinema in the Studio-Era (TERM YR)
General Information Sheet for Forum Posts

The screenings selected for this course are, for the most part, non-canonical, for reasons discussed during Week 1. You will, for these forum posts, be assigned a somewhat more canonical film from the studio era (see over) and write about it from a variety of perspectives that correspond to the approaches and methods covered over the semester. You will do this in groups of 4-5 students, each of which is assigned one film.

Your written work for this assignment will comprise six short (500-750 word) essays that will ask you to explore the film assigned to your group from a variety of historical angles, including aesthetic, industrial, social, and broadly cultural.

Most of these essays will ask you to center your discussion around a single primary-source artifact that you will find and situate in its relevant context (we will practice this in class), using this object to consider what facets of the film your artifact (and ones like it) might help us explore. Your notes in this direction will, I hope, make you interested to read and comment on the work of your peers, who will be finding other, related primary sources.

	DESCRIPTION/ OPTIONS	DUE
POST 1	Review of your film	Wk.03
POST 2	A - Locate & discuss trade press reviews, comparing it to yours above	Wk.05
	B - Analyze a scene drawing on Bordwell's Classical Style readings	
POST 3	A - Locate promotional materials & discuss in relation to genre, etc.	Wk.08
	B - Locate fan magazine article & discuss in relation to star readings	
	C - Review annual report / season's releases/budgets & locate your film	
POST 4	A - Locate & discuss material on production and/or creative personnel	Wk.11
	B - Locate & discuss material on technology in the film	
	C - Discuss Production Code File materials relating to your film	
POST 5	A - Research box office performance and local circulation	Wk.14
	B - Research Hollywood abroad in international trade press	
	C - Research local African American film culture [using local DBs/subs]	
	D - Research a local (NJ/PA) theater where your film screened	
EXTRA CREDIT	Complete an option above that you have not done already. If completed satisfactorily, you'll get 3-5 points on your final grade.	Final

Distribute: Wk.1

Forum Post Film Options

By the end of week 2, you will be assigned to group with 3-4 other students. Your group will be assigned one of the below films. In order to form these groups, I will need to know your preferences. Please rank your top 5 choices from the below list and submit this ranking before our Week 2 meeting. I hope you will have heard of most of these films. You should feel free to independently research those that are unfamiliar to determine whether you'd like to research them this term.

No	Film	Director	Producer	Stars	Studio	Year	Genre	S&S	NFR	AFI	NBR	Oscars	Noms
1	Adventures of Robin Hood, The	Michael Curtiz	Jack Warner/ Hal Wallis	Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone, Claude Rains	Warner Bros.	1938	Adventure	NR	1995	NR	NR	1	4
2	Casablanca	Michael Curtiz	Hal B. Wallis	Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains, Paul Henreid	Warner Bros.	1943	Romance (wartime)	84	1989	2	6	3	8
3	Foreign Correspondent	Alfred Hitchcock	Walter Wanger	Joel McCrea, Laraine Day, Herbert Marshall, Robert Benchley	Wanger	1940	Drama (wartime)	NR	NR	NR	7	0	6
4	Frankenstein	James Whale	Carl Laemmle, Jr.	Boris Karloff, Colin Clive, Mae Clark	Universal	1931	Horror, science fict	NR	1991	87	NR	0	0
5	Gone with the Wind	Victor Fleming	David O. Selznick	Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard, Hattie McDaniel	Selznick	1939	Romance	235	1989	4	9	10	15
6	Grapes of Wrath	John Ford	Darryl Zanuck	Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell, John Carradine	20C Fox	1940	Drama (social prob)	183	1989	21	1	2	7
7	King Kong	M. Cooper/ E. Schoedsack	Cooper, Schoedsack, David O. Selznick	Fay Wray, Robert Armstrong, Noble Johnson	RKO	1933	Adventure, horror	171	1991	43	NR	3	4
8	Philadelphia Story, The	George Cukor	Joseph L. Mankiewicz	Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, Jimmy Stewart	MGM	1940	Romantic comedy	NR	1995	51	NR	1	5
9	Public Enemy, The	William Wellman	Darryl Zanuck	James Cagney, Jean Harlow, Joan Blondell	Warner Bros.	1931	Drama (gangster)	NR	1998	NR	NR	0	0
10	Stagecoach	John Ford	Walter Wanger	John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Andy Devine, Thomas Mitchell	Wanger	1939	Western	NR	1995	63	3	2	7
11	To Be or Not to Be	Ernst Lubitsch	Ernst Lubitsch	Jack Benny, Carole Lombard, Robert Stack	Paramount	1942	Comedy- drama (war)	144	1996	NR	NR	0	1
12	Wizard of Oz, The	Victor Fleming	Mervyn LeRoy	Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger	MGM	1939	Fantasy, musical	144	1989	6	NR	2	6

Key:

S&S: Ranking in the 2012 Sight & Sound critics poll

NFR: Year inducted into National Film Registry (begins in 1989)

AFI: Ranking in the 1998 AFI 100 Years.. 100 Movies list

NBR: Rank in Nation Board of Review's annual top 10

Oscars: Number of Academy Awards won

Noms: Number of Academy Award nominations (including wins)