

**RTVF-137A HILL TERM PAPER DUE DEC. 21 BEFORE MIDNIGHT**

2,000-2,500 words

(Honors option: 2,500-3,000 words, with at least one additional source.)

For this essay, you may come up with an original research topic of your own, **or** you may respond to ONE or TWO of the three prompts below.

If you are proposing your own topic, you have a fair amount of leeway to research any aspect of film history up through 1945. Some possibilities include (but are not limited to) a particular national cinema; technological / aesthetic / economic trends in the American film industry; a particular genre or movement in film; representations of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, etc.; or an expanded / in-depth consideration of a topic covered in the course, such as censorship and the Production Code.

You must use at least three reliable sources, which may be from the assigned readings; and you should consider at least three films. **I recommend discussing your ideas with me in advance.**

Cite your sources using MLA format.

**OR**

**Choose ONE or TWO** of the following topics (for a TOTAL of 2,000-2,500 words). Whichever you choose, I strongly recommend re-watching the films that you discuss. Cite sources using MLA format.

1) Compare/contrast two movements in European film from the 1920s or 1930s. These may include Soviet Montage (*The Man with a Movie Camera*), the European Avant-Garde (various short films), German Expressionism (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*), or French “art films” (*Zero for Conduct*, *The Grand Illusion*). You may also choose to view alternate films from any of these movements, or from other relevant national cinemas of the 1920s or 30s, such as Sweden (which would involve additional research on your part). Your response must refer substantially to at least two films and at least two of the assigned readings. Your response should focus on the historical contexts of the films in question, which may include concerns such as aesthetics, film industry practices, larger historical forces, etc.

2) Discuss the various changes that take place in Hollywood during the early sound period (roughly 1926/27- 1931/32). You should consider at least two films, which may be short or feature length, and you should refer substantially to the assigned readings. Your response should focus on the historical contexts of the films in question, which may include concerns such as aesthetics, film industry practices, etc.

3) Compare/contrast Hollywood films of the 1930s-40s (as represented by *Stagecoach*, or *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, or *Design for Living*, or *The Lady Eve*, or *Foreign Correspondent*) with either the French cinema of the 1930s (as represented by *Zero for Conduct* and/or *The Grand Illusion*) or the Italian Neorealist movement (epitomized by *Rome Open City*). Your response should focus on the historical contexts of the films in question, which may include concerns such as aesthetics, film industry practices, etc.; and you should draw substantially on at least two of the assigned readings.