**Film History Essay (3-4 pages)**

This paper will build on the skills developed writing the film responses and bring in the historical research element by drawing on primary sources to deepen your analysis. Samples of period-specific publications should be drawn from the Lantern search engine though the Digital Media History Library as discussed in class.

The purpose of this essay is to develop knowledge of film history by looking at the Hollywood trade press of the Golden Age. These publications differ from the newspapers in that they provide great insight to movie culture more specifically. The trade press gives us a larger picture of what was important, interesting, and influential at the time from within the film industry.

This paper will require the student to utilize a database search engine (Lantern) to study primary sources from Hollywood’s early years and write a paper on those findings. They will analyze what the articles, photos, and advertisements of old film industry publications tell us about movies during another time period. Think about what is represented in the pages and how that representation may impact the reader? How might a reader feel about this issue today versus when it was released?

Step One: go to <http://lantern.mediahist.org/>

Step Two: Click on “title” in the box towards the top left and pick a publication.

Step Three: ` You can browse the publications and find one to review or search a specific film, actor, or event to research. If you look at a single publication in general use that as your only source. If you decide to look up a specific film or actor and focus on just that topic, find articles in 2-3 publications to look at.

Step Four: Once you have found a publication or topic you want to write about, answer the following questions:

What is the name and date of the publication(s)?

Describe the cover.

What are some of the main headlines, why do you think they may have been important/relevant?

Describe any feature stories from within the magazine.

What films are being reviewed or covered in some way?

What about the advertisements? What are they advertising and how?

Conclude with an overview of the publication(s) and what you’ve learned about the time period through this primary source.