

Hollywood Cinema in the Studio-Era (TERM YR)  
**Forum Post Guidelines**

The purpose of the writing assignments being done as Forum Posts – that is, posted online where you peers will read and respond to your work – is to encourage the exchange of sources and ideas. As a result, you are required to post your assignments in a timely fashion and reply to your peers in a similarly timely fashion. Because a central purpose of the assignment is for you to work with your peers to better understand a Hollywood classic in its full complexity, from multiple dimensions, penalties for not following these guidelines are severe.

When **posting** your forum post assignment:

- You must post your primary source and your forum post essay by **11:59pm on the due date** of the assignment (always a DAY OF WEEK)
- One point (of the 10 the assignment is out of) will be deducted as a **late penalty** for each day you are late, until **DAY at TIME**, at which point the assignment (if handed in) will receive a maximum score of 5 points (50% of total).
- When posting an assignment, you should **create a new thread** in the assignment's discussion forum. The title or subject of your thread should be the name of the article you've found (e.g. "Letter from 'Extra' in Hollywood (April 1939)") or a brief description of the artifact (e.g. "Ad for film in Motion Picture Herald, 13 June 1939" or "Image of window display advertisement in MPH 19 Aug. 1939").
- **Citing your source:** The first line of your post should be a full Chicago-style citation of the artifact, including (if available) a URL link to the article (e.g. "E.J. Smithson, 'Only Angels Have Wings,' *Hollywood* 28, no. 4 (April 1939): 34-8  
<<http://archive.org/stream/hollywood28fawc#page/n235/mode/2up>>").
- If you are dealing with a photograph or advertisement, you should attach an image (JPEG, TIFF, etc.) of the item. You can do this by taking a screen grab & cropping it as you'd like.
- Because everyone in the group is required to have their own primary source (i.e. **no repeats** of the same *Variety* article), I'd recommend you complete the first few steps—that is, everything before the forum post/essay itself—as soon as possible. This way, you won't complete an essay only to find the artifact you've written about has already been "taken."
- You should post the written portion of the assignment below the full citation. **Do not** attach a .doc or .pdf file – instead, post the text directly into the Message field, so your peers can read your work more easily.

When **responding** to your peers' posts:

- You should offer something more substantive than "cool!" when commenting on your peers' work. You should aim for one short paragraph of about 150 to 200 words.
- You should be inquisitive and are encouraged to ask questions of clarification or that push your peers' commentary/interpretation beyond what they offer, but you should be sure to be cordial, polite, respectful and avoid belligerence
- In addition to asking your peer to consider some overlooked aspect of their primary source, you should try to connect your peers' research to the assigned course readings (what would Author X make of this item? Did we see a similar source used by Author Y?), previous week's primary sources (were films reviewed differently in the 20s than in your film's era?), or consider their artifact in relation to the one you (what different aspects of the film do they point to? How does their artifact make you consider your own differently?)
- You should post responses to **at least two** of your group members' responses, and this must be done **by TIME on the DAY** after the forum post is due.
- You must reply to your group members' responses to your post. You should do this by **TIME on DAY** after the forum post is due. Again, something more substantive than "thanks!"
- The Community aspect of the assignment is worth 4 of the assignment's 10 points. If you do not participate in the discussion portion of the forum post assignments, your grade will be capped at 60% of the total score.

*Distribute wk.3*