**Historical Research Portfolio**

Your final assignment is designed to help you hone your critical thinking and research skills. The project will require you to conduct in depth research on a specific film—selected from a list I have provided. However, instead of presenting your work in the form of an essay, you will catalogue, analyze, and annotate your research materials and compile your findings in a research portfolio. The completed portfolio must include the following components: production information on your chosen film, an annotated bibliography, four primary document reviews, a proposed set of questions for further research and a thesis statement. Below are all the required components of the assignment you need to submit:

1.) Production information for your selected film.
   a. Release date
   b. Production Studio
   c. Distributor
   d. Director
   e. Cinematographer
   f. Editor
   g. Country of origin
   h. Current available formats (and their distributors i.e. not just “streaming online” but the particular content provider)

2.) Write out a set of initial research questions pertaining to your film of choice that you would like to investigate further in your historical research. At this stage in the portfolio, your questions can be rather exploratory and subjective; the main purpose of these questions is to serve as entryway into your more sustained research. Consider what initially drew you to the film, what excites you most about it, or and what aspects of the text you are most interested in exploring in greater detail. These questions will necessarily change and be shaped by your research process and the materials you uncover. You will propose a refined set of research questions after having completed your investigations.

3.) Find and print **four different types of primary documents** related to your film. Primary documents must be contemporary with the film’s release (see the research guide for a detailed overview of the difference between a primary and secondary document). You must identify the source of each document (where is it preserved and how did you access it?), the author or creator of the text, its target audience and intended use, where and how you think it circulated, and what information it provides about the film. Most importantly, you must write a one-paragraph assessment of the evidentiary value of this primary document to your historical research. More information on locating, selecting, and evaluating primary documents will be provided in our in class workshop on historical research. The following is a list (by no means comprehensive) of primary materials you might consult for this project:
a. A film review from the popular press.
b. A film review from the trade press.
c. A newspaper, magazine, or journal article (popular or trade press) addressing any number of issues related to the film including: the film itself, one of the film’s stars, the film’s director, the film’s production history, audience response to the film, etc.
d. Newsreels related to the film’s original release
e. An advertisement for the film (posters, trailers, pamphlets, radio spots, newspaper ads, etc.) For audiovisual materials, please include links or submit them on a USB drive.
f. An essay written by the filmmaker or another agent involved in the film’s production, distribution, or exhibition.
g. Interviews with the any of the above participants.
h. Other archival documents related to the film including: production company memos, shooting reports, audience response cards, or production code reviews; local censorship board documents and other public records materials; exhibitor’s reports; program notes; memoirs of participants involved in the production.

4.) Find four peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles (or book chapters) that deal with your film of choice. They may either address the film in isolation or incorporate it into a larger discussion. While you may consult your textbook and course packet for background information, assigned class readings cannot count toward your bibliography. Print each article to include in your report. Create an annotated bibliography entry for each of the four articles selected. You must include all of the publication information for the article as well as a summary of the author’s method/analytical approach, and argument or findings. Use the critical reading guide to help you write these entries. In a separate 1-2 paragraph analysis, compare and contrast the arguments made by each author.

5.) Write a set of proposed questions for further historical research on your chosen film. These questions may be significantly different from the ones you initially posed when you began your research. Most importantly, they should engage with and aim to build on the existing literature you have surveyed in your research. You might address perceived gaps in the field, or new/underdeveloped areas that remain to be examined. You should also consider how your primary, archival research might open up new lines of analysis. Your objective here is to propose further avenues of inquiry that your critical and archival research suggests. Write a 250-500 word explanation detailing: why you have chosen your proposed research questions; how they developed and shifted from your initial research questions; how they might build on existing work in the field; what methods and further sources you would use to go about answering these proposed questions in a research essay.