Readings


Historical Terms

the “Golden Age of Hollywood”
Production Code
The Great Depression
The “Arbuckle Scandal”
White Clown
Auguste Clown
Burlesque
Vaudeville
Minstrel Show

Technical Terms

The Studio System
synchronous sound
vertical integration
soundstages
producer
director
location cinematography
B-pictures
genres
Personalities

Will Hays
Joseph Breen
John Wayne
John Ford
Charles Chaplin
Buster Keaton

Concepts (for essay questions)

Discuss the creation and basic principles of the Production Code, and how certain scenes and dialogue from *Stagecoach* either reflected or challenged the Code.

Discuss basic characteristics of the Hollywood Studio System, and how its “factory model” of film production reached a peak in the 1930s.

How does Buster Keaton, in his epic silent film, The General, manage to integrate comedy and his characteristic stunt-oriented slapstick humor into a historically informed film about a real incident in the Civil War?

Discuss the social commentary and attitudes toward American life and history reflected in *Stagecoach*.

Films (on reserve in Medford Library, subject to checkout policies on syllabus)

*The Idle Class* (Dir. by Charles Chaplin, starring Charles Chaplin and Edna Purvience), DVD

*Stagecoach* (Dir. by John Ford; starring John Wayne), DVD

*The General* (Dir. by Buster Keaton, Starring Buster Keaton and Marion Mack), DVD