**Early American Films: the Road to the Feature Film, 1900-1910**

Earliest films

 Lumière réalité films – short, no narrative, no actors, no editing

 Other short films, e.g., ‘The Kiss’, ‘Peeping Tom’

More advanced films, length 7-12 minutes

 Méliès, ‘Voyage dans la lune’ 1902 – fantasy/science fiction

 Fade outs for scene transition

 No actors

 Cinematography – “25th row”

 A lot of special effects produced in a studio

 Hepworth, ‘Rescued by Rover’ 1905 – protagonist; cutting to continuity

 Thriller with a chase

Strong editing, especially cutting to continuity

 Acting style – histrionic and not realistic

 Is there a star?

 Edwin S. Porter, ‘The Great Train Robbery’ 1903 – beginning of the western

 Beginning of Western genre

 Strong narrative

Mise-en-scène and editing are ahead of its time – e.g., camera panning and parallel editing

Close-up at end? – Bronco Billy

Special effects – hand tinting and back-screen projection

Sum: stage set for the emergence of the Hollywood feature film, ca. 1912.