

Hist/HRS 169 – Essay Questions for Exam #1

Spring 2018

On your first exam you will be asked to write in class on the following question. This in-class essay should be at least 200 words; it should be analytical rather than merely descriptive. Remember to study the film clips and use them as a principal text for your answer.

1. What do films like ‘Safety Last’ 1923, ‘Sherlock Jr.’ 1924, ‘It’ 1927, ‘The Sheik’ 1921, ‘Flesh and the Devil’ 1926, tell us about American society and culture in the 1920s. Analyze at least four of the films. You might consider the ascendancy of the middle classes, the prestige of social mobility, the behavior of young women in the Roaring 20s in contrast to pre-war times, romantic and sexual images on the big screen. You might compare with the wholesomeness of Mary Pickford and the working class ethos of Charlie Chaplin. Don’t just list ideas; put them together in a tentative whole.