

## Hist/HRS 169: Take-Home Essay on Vieira Book

Spring 2018

Write a take-home essay on the following question related to the Vieira book on Irving Thalberg. The essay is due on **March 29**.

The essay should address the question; it should be about 1000 words long; it should be well-written and typewritten; it should include at least 8 (eight) citations from the Vieira book (including page numbers reasonably distributed throughout the book) that refer to paraphrased material, particularly important information, and some quotations. Most of the citations should come from portions of the book that deal with Thalberg's **sound films**. Quotations always impress instructors.

Please do not **plagiarize**: i.e., do not copy or paraphrase material either printed or online without attributing the source with a reference note. This caveat applies especially to articles from Wikipedia.

You may use the MLA format, the Chicago format, or any other that pleases you so long as it makes sense. Include a Works Cited section; and include any outside sources you used.

For the sake of legibility, please double-space.

Your essay has two goals: to show your insight into the material treated; and to demonstrate to your instructor that you have **read the book!**

Your assignment:

Write an essay on Irving Thalberg's relationship with the writers at MGM with emphasis on the **sound era** (1929-36): the degree of importance he assigned to their work; where he found good writers especially after the beginning of sound film; his use of writers in teams, sometimes using several with different specialties; his script conferences; his feelings about the writer's need for personal authorship, etc. Give some interesting examples, perhaps citing the development of 'Grand Hotel' 1932, 'China Seas' 1935, 'Goodbye Mr. Chips' 1939, and 'Camille' 1936, his relationships with writers David Ogden Steward and Lenore Coffee. Would you describe his relationship with writers dictatorial, top down? Collaborative and decentralized? Or somewhere in-between?

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