Week 1: The Thin Man 1934
The first of the Thin Man series with William Powell and Myrna Loy as Nick and Nora Charles. She’s a wealthy heiress and he’s a former detective who solve murders just for the fun of it. There were six movies in this series and Loy and Powell made a total of fourteen films together.

Week 2: It Happened One Night 1934
The first movie to win the grand slam of Academy Awards – best picture, best actor, best actress, best director and best screenplay. Starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert - neither of whom wanted to make this movie!

Week 3: My Man Godfrey 1936
A comedy about the Depression? Starring William Powell and Carol Lombard (three years after they divorced) highlighting the excesses of the time and the triumph of the human spirit.

Week 4: Libeled Lady 1936
The original fake news comedy! Starring Jean Harlow, William Powell, Myrna Loy and Spencer Tracy.

Week 5: The Petrified Forest 1936
From the successful stage play by Robert E. Sherwood. This was the first big role for Humphrey Bogart and starred Leslie Howard and Bette Davis.

*Week 6: You Can’t Take It With You 1938
A timeless comedy based on the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Kaufman and Hart. Directed by Frank Capra and starring Jimmy Stewart, Jean Arthur and Lionel Barrymore.

*Week 7: Mr. Smith Goes to Washington 1939
A newcomer fights corruption in the Senate. Nominated for 11 Academy Awards and another collaboration by Frank Capra, Jimmy Stewart and Jean Arthur. Also starring Claude Rains and Edward Arnold.

Week 8: Of Mice and Men 1939
Another movie about the depression, but definitely not a comedy. Burgess Meredith and Lon Chaney, Jr. as itinerant migrant workers with big dreams and little opportunity. From the John Steinbeck novel.

* These two movies run long so the class will determine if we’ll start 30 minutes early or end late.