



2012 Senior Thesis Projects College of Arts and Letters

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Catherine Ahern

Department of Anthropology
Adviser: Deborah Rotman

***“Occupational Opportunities of Irish Women in America:
Comparing Women’s Roles Within the Local Economies of Beaver
Island, Mich.; San Francisco; and Butte, Mont.”***

My project explores gendered occupational roles in Irish communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. I compare employment opportunities of women and how those women impacted the economic sphere. I participated in Professor Deborah Rotman’s summer historical archaeology course on Beaver Island and became so fond of its fascinating history that I decided to pursue further research there as part of my thesis.

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Kathleen Allare

Department of Political Science
Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

“Making Sense of the 2012 Republican Nomination”

I am developing an understanding of the goals of the Republican Party by examining recent changes to the GOP presidential nomination process. Namely, what type of candidate are they trying to nominate and why? Moreover, I am arguing that they have essentially adopted the incorrect approach for achieving their long-term institutional goals in favor of short-term gains.

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Sarah Allen

Department of Political Science
Minor in peace studies
Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

“Whose Liberty? The Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion in American and French Immigration Policies, 1882–2001”

I explore interactions between liberty, national identity, and the economy in the formation of immigration policy. I compare and contrast French and American approaches to immigration to show how the historical evolution of policies sheds light on the contemporary immigration debate. I have always been interested in the relationship between the United States and France, especially with regard to the ideological exchange that occurred during their revolutionary eras.

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Elise Alonzi

Department of Anthropology
 Double major in environmental science
 Adviser: Mark Schurr

“Dietary Variation on the Edge of History: Human Stable Isotopes and Maize Consumption at Protohistoric Caborn-Welborn Villages and the Angel Site in Southern Indiana”

The Caborn-Welborn phase was a protohistoric culture in southwestern Indiana composed of villages, hamlets, and farmsteads. In contrast, the neighboring Angel site was a heavily maize-dependent, Middle-Mississippian, civic-ceremonial center. Using stable carbon-isotope ratios from human burials, I am comparing the two to determine the possibility of migration from Angel into the Caborn-Welborn sites. This project has had a direct impact on research I will pursue next year in graduate school, where I will work in archaeological bone chemistry.

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Rebecca Amata

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Middle Eastern studies
 Adviser: Li Guo

“Politics and the Muslim Woman”

This project attempts to describe what the ideal Muslim woman looks like and how she would operate in the political sphere. As a political science major, I’m interested in Middle Eastern politics; while in courses to fulfill my minor, I learned more about the culture and was particularly intrigued by the marginalization of women in Middle Eastern society. My thesis combines these two areas.

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Carly Anderson

Department of History
 Minor in European studies
 Adviser: Patrick Griffin

“A British Brew: The Boston Tea Party”

The Boston Tea Party offers a crucial foothold in comprehending and building an American history. I explore its legacy and the factors contributing to its occurrence. By examining it within the network of the 18th century British Empire, I ask how America remembers the Tea Party. Is our history myth or memory? As the United States grows increasingly more removed from its colonial past, research into our origins proves ever more vital.

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Zachary Angus

Department of Music
 Double major in English
 Adviser: Stephen Lancaster

“Senior Voice Recital”

My recital includes selections in four languages—English, French, German, and Italian—with music composed in the early 1800s up until the 1950s. In addition to presenting a cross-section of my vocal and musical development as a Notre Dame student, I want to focus on performing music that is relevant and interesting, not only as pieces on their own but as a whole experience as well.

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**Christopher Antonacci**

Department of English

Adviser: William Krier

“The Vital Lie: Consciousness, Flashback, and Creation of Life Narratives in Lone Star (1996) and The Usual Suspects (1995)”

My thesis explores the use of flashback in mid-90s independent films in creating or recreating history. I emphasize the concept of identity creation through personal narrative development and delve into the techniques employed by the directors of *Lone Star* and *The Usual Suspects* to arrive at radically different interpretations of identity, the past, and the present. I trace two interpretations of one thought-provoking notion: the story of our lives is not what happens to us but rather what we tell ourselves happened.

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Alexa Arastoo

Department of English

Supplementary major in preprofessional studies

Adviser: Johannes Göransson

“The Adventures of One Miss Shafreeforall Dubois”

My creative writing thesis is part of a young adult (YA) novel in which two main characters explore the world and draw strength from an alter ego named Shafreeforall, also the novel’s narrator. I chose to write a YA novel because my point of view rotates around issues such as race, sexuality, and gender, and I believe in showing young readers that many viewpoints exist—and doing so in a fun, creative way.

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**Daniel Barrera**

Program of Liberal Studies
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Robert Goulding

“New Life in Julian of Norwich’s Soteriology”

Julian of Norwich’s soteriology is based upon the early Church’s understanding of Romans. Her text implicitly and explicitly embodies what early Church fathers such as Pseudo-Ambrose understood Paul to be saying. Through a study of Romans side by side with Norwich’s *Showings*, it is possible to see a continuity of ideas about the nature of man’s fall and how it is that man comes to be saved through Jesus Christ.

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Kevin Barsaloux

Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
 Adviser: Anton Juan

“Paradigm Shift”

I wrote a play about the first cyborg. Over the course of the action, she comes to grips with her place outside of and above society. Meanwhile, a group of rogue A.I. work to technologically isolate humanity by manipulating them through advertisements and products that make life “easier” and “safer.” The cyborg must choose whether to cut the cord or let humanity languish in stagnation.

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Cassidy Bartolomei
Program of Liberal Studies
Adviser: Francesca Bordogna

“The Psychedelic Experience”

I argue the value of the psychedelic experience for the liberation and transformation of self. Through the literary works of Aldous Huxley, I draw the parallel between the transformation of self that is experienced by the student of the liberal arts and by the taker of mind-altering chemicals.

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Emily Barton
Department of English
Supplementary major in Spanish
Adviser: Joyelle McSweeney

“La Musa del Sueño”

My creative writing thesis is a collection of 20 prose poems, primarily influenced by Arthur Rimbaud, Rainer Maria Rilke, Charles Baudelaire, Ben Lerner, and Damaris Calderón Campos. I love writing and studying poetry, and I wanted a chance to learn more about authors I had never read before and to use those authors' works as inspirational fuel for my own poetry.

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**Dylan Belton**

Departments of Philosophy and Theology joint major
Advisers: Matthew Ashley and Grant Ramsey

“Evolution and Teleology”

I investigate the post-Darwinian status of teleology in philosophy and biology and how Darwinian evolutionary theory has affected theological reflection on divine purpose in an evolutionary context. I wanted to evaluate the far-reaching claim that Darwin’s theory means the universe has “at bottom” neither immanent purposes nor an overarching purpose.

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**Ginny Benz**

Program of Liberal Studies
Adviser: Henry Weinfield

““Conversations With Calliope’: A.D. Hope and the Fate of Poetry”

I explore and analyze the works of the 20th century Australian poet A.D. Hope, particularly his poem “Conversation With Calliope.” I discuss the various themes Hope writes about—including the progress and fate of poetry, modernity, and human culture—and look at how this particular poem is reflective of Hope’s own career as a writer.

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Natasha Bergstedt

Department of Psychology
 Double major in sociology
 Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

***“Marital and Peer Influences on Romantic Relationships:
 Examining the Role of Emotional Security Theory and the
 Cognitive-Contextual Model”***

I examine the relationship between observed marital conflict behaviors and the development of adolescent peer conflict behaviors. I am testing emotional security theory and the cognitive-contextual model as potential mediators and the number of close friends reported at adolescence as a potential moderator. If more of the mechanisms of how people learn to handle conflict are identified, prevention and support programs could be better informed and more successful.

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Brian Bettonville

Program of Liberal Studies
 Double major in psychology
 Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

“Descartes’ Man in the Modern World”

I’m examining Cartesian dualism based on how its critics view it and how Descartes’ works actually describe it. Through a thorough examination of the source material, I hope to show that Descartes may be unfairly saddled with the blame for mind/body dualism, and I seek to explain why his works are defensible in a modern context.

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**Shelly Birch**

Department of Anthropology
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

“The Effect of Stress on Health Care Delivery in Public Hospitals in Mexico”

This project explores how stresses in physicians’ lives affect the relationships they have with their patients in the obstetrics ward of a Mexican public hospital. As a pre-medical intern in Mexican public hospitals in summer and fall 2010, I observed less-than-ideal patient care, as well as extremely stressed physicians. This project elucidates a more global understanding of the effects of physician stress and informs better patient-care protocols.

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**Jessica Bock**

Department of Classics
 Double major in anthropology
 Adviser: Meredith Chesson

“Political Maneuvering at Rachel’s Tomb and the City of David: Implications for Israel and Palestine”

I studied the political manipulation of the sites of Rachel’s Tomb and the City of David to further Israeli nationalism through an exclusion of the Palestinian claim to the land of Israel, and what implications this has on the peaceful co-existence between the Palestinians and Israelis. Misrepresenting archaeological evidence to further political agendas is prevalent in many countries, but I was drawn to study these in particular after studying abroad in Jerusalem.

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Brian Boll

Self-designed major in Irish cultural and language studies

Adviser: Peter McQuillan

“Cataphora, Anaphora, and Recursion: Irish Copular Syntax and the Syntax of the Post-Copular Demonstrative Construction in Connacht and Munster Irish, As Also Compared With Usage in Ulster Irish and Official Standard Irish”

I investigated the syntax of a linguistic construction in the Irish language that has so far been poorly explained, documented, and regarded, despite its ubiquity in two of the three remaining major living dialects of spoken Irish. I picked this topic because it was an unsolved—but not insoluble—problem that wanted for attention.

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Barrick Bollman

Department of Political Science

Minor in Hesburgh Program of Public Service

Adviser: Peri Arnold

“Going Public: A Comparison of Prime Ministerial and Presidential Communications Strategies”

I examine the communications strategy of “going public”—when a leader sells a particular policy to constituents in the hopes they will place pressure on their representatives to support that policy. This project looks at this concept comparatively and considers the U.S. president and U.K. prime minister. Beyond a descriptive analysis of the institutions and communications tools, I look at two cases: the Iraq War and deficit/debt crisis.

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Alexa Braga

Department of Sociology
 Double major in psychology
 Adviser: Rory McVeigh

“Justifying Police Use of Force: Changing Racial and Gender Attitudes”

I researched the way females and black Americans view the use of police force and in what situations it is justified. I investigate whether there has been a change in the way these two groups view this issue since the 1970s, when both groups were significantly marginalized. I am attending graduate school next year for criminology, so I wanted to investigate a topic applicable to both that and sociology.

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Nicholas Brandt

Program of Liberal Studies
 Double major in Film, Television, and Theatre
 Adviser: Julia Marvin

“The Rarer Action Is in Virtue: Exploring Prospero Through His Relationships and His Art in Shakespeare’s The Tempest”

I re-examine the character Prospero in *The Tempest* and posit an interpretation that views him not as an inhuman dictator but as a human being struggling with a crisis. I see incredible complexity in this character and was shocked so many scholars disagree with me, so I began poring over research to figure out what makes Prospero one of Shakespeare’s greatest characters.

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**Melissa Buddie**

Department of Sociology
 Minor in gender studies
 Adviser: Jessica Collett

“Influence of Power and Attractiveness of Athletes on Perceptions of Sexual Harassment”

In a survey study, eight situations of sexual harassment were presented to participants in which the variables of the harasser’s athlete status, location of the harassment, and nature of the harassment were manipulated. I wanted to discover if students gave athletes preferential treatment by examining how their reactions to harassment varied when the perpetrator was an athlete as opposed to just a male student.

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**Mary Buechler**

Department of English
 Minor in Philosophy and Literature
 Adviser: José Limón

“Identity Formation in the First Three Novels of James Baldwin”

My thesis is a unified reading of *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *Giovanni’s Room*, and *Another Country*. Because they are so different, Baldwin’s critics have treated them as relatively isolated works. Baldwin, on the whole, is slipping out of favor for his opposition to Ralph Ellison and for the controversial subject matter of some of his prose. I wanted to return Baldwin to critical attention.

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Katie Buetow

Program of Liberal Studies
 Double major in music performance
 Adviser: David O'Connor

“That a Better Voice May Rise: Plato, Dante, and the Shared Journey of Reader and Writer”

My project is a dialogue between Plato and Dante that explores the purpose of the written word and the relationship between reader and writer. It focuses on material from Plato’s *Phaedrus* and Dante’s *Purgatorio*. By putting Dante and Plato in dialogue with each other, I hope to find, if not an answer, a new way of thinking about these questions.

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Angela Campbell

Department of English
 Double major in biology
 Adviser: Thomas Werge

“A Piece of Fiction on Spirituality”

I wrote the beginning of a novel based on spirituality, the duality of human nature, and the importance of choice and the role it plays (or doesn’t play) in fate. Additionally, it encounters abstract topics such as the role of names, dreams, and the subconscious in our daily lives. I’ve been contemplating this project for many years, and now I finally had the time and enough research to start it.

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**Kate Carnesale**

Department of Political Science

Minor in Italian

Adviser: Daniel Philpott

“The Modern Islamic Political Party: The Democratic Principles of the Justice and Development Party in Turkey”

I studied Turkey’s ruling political party, which has been described as Islamist; however, I argue it is a force for liberalization and democratization and has formed organically in collaboration with civil society organizations. The party has been referenced in post-Arab Spring nations as a source of inspiration, and I am ascertaining what this could mean for the future of the Muslim world and our global economy.

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**Christian Chelsky**

Department of Political Science

Minor in peace studies

Adviser: Susan Rosato

“Banning the Headscarf: Explaining Variation Across Europe”

I explore why France and Germany have pursued bans targeting the Islamic headscarf while the United Kingdom and Austria have not. I argue that the population size of a Muslim community matters with the state but that it’s not the sole (or most important) deciding factor in determining whether a country will implement the ban. Rather, what matters most are the cultural traditions embedded in a society.

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**Jee Seun Choi**

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Chinese
 Adviser: Victoria Hui

“Myth of South Korean Anti-Americanism?”

I am exploring whether anti-Americanism exists in South Korea. The public discourse in newspapers seems to imply that anti-Americanism exists there to a substantial level, but public opinion polls say otherwise. Through analyzing newspaper op-eds, public opinion polls, and my own survey results, I explore the nature of public perception of anti-Americanism and its actual existence.

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**Kelly Colas**

Department of Anthropology
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Vania Smith-Oka

“Empowerment, Education, and Experiencing Birth: Factors Contributing to a Disillusioning Birth Experience for Young Mothers in a Public Mexican Hospital”

My work examines social factors contributing to a disillusioning, voiceless birth experience, especially for young mothers. My findings reveal that lack of sex education in the family, internalized patient stereotypes by physicians, an overcrowded public health system, and gender roles in Mexico all result in a disenfranchising birth experience for young mothers.

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**Claire Conley**

Department of Psychology
 Minors in anthropology and Italian
 Adviser: Thomas Merluzzi

“Spiritual Efficacy for Coping With Cancer: Adding Spirituality to the Cancer Behavior Inventory”

I collected data on coping methods, religion, and spirituality from more than 300 cancer survivors and used it to revise the Cancer Behavior Inventory (a self-efficacy scale for coping in cancer patients), adding a psychometrically sound subscale measuring spiritual efficacy. Prior to writing my thesis, my adviser and I realized there was a lack of validated measures of spiritual coping for this population, and I attempted to remedy that problem.

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**Brendan Corsones**

Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
 Double major in political science
 Adviser: Donald Crafton

“Seinfeld: Much Ado About Nothing”

I explored the ideology of the television show *Seinfeld*, explaining what the show about nothing is about and examining its impact on modern television and the sitcom genre. Through my department, I was able to speak with one of the writers for *Seinfeld*, Pat Hazell, and an actor from the show, Larry Miller.

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Christie Coughlin

Department of Sociology
 Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society
 Adviser: Mark Guntz

“Effects of Parental Religiosity on the Social Interaction of Children With Autism”

I studied the relationship between parental religiosity and the social interaction of autistic children. After spending a summer working with the families of autistic children, I noticed there were some children more willing to engage with their peers and me. Each of these children had families involved with their religions, and, thus, I thought there might be a correlation between the two.

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Adam Cowden

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
 Adviser: Jaimie Bleck

“Social Security and Family Decisions in Sub-Saharan Africa”

I explored the relationship between social security and family decisions relating to children and education, using research I conducted in Botswana and Mauritius. I read an article about the effects of universal social security on family decision-making in Latin America that argues that one of the primary causes of lagging development there was the longtime absence of welfare institutions. I wanted to see if this also applied to Africa.

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Deborah Cronin

Department of Psychology
 Double major in biological science
 Adviser: James Brockmole

“Spatial Reference Frames, Implied Motion, and Perceived Animacy: Influences on Gaze”

How do we decide where to look next when viewing a still scene? To help answer this, I investigated the gaze-cuing capacity of three different object properties—spatial reference frames (i.e., directionality), implied motion, and perceived animacy—in a series of three experiments. Certain properties of a scene, such as the gaze of a person in it, can influence our decision of where to look. Similarly, I thought other properties might be equally informative as well.

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Kelli Davis

Department of Sociology
 Adviser: Russell Faeges

“Perceptions and Self-Perceptions of Today’s U.S. Army Female Combatants”

My thesis is concerned with two primary questions: First, what are the perceptions of today’s female combatants as held by civilians and military personnel? Second, do these perceptions parallel the self-perceptions of female combatants? I think this is an important area that should be researched because of the extent to which the concept of a female combatant challenges traditional gender roles.

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Michelle De La Cruz

Department of Anthropology
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Susan Sheridan

“The Evolution of Attractiveness”

Perceptions of attractiveness vary through time and space and are not homogenous across cultures or individuals, but there are identifiable trends in the biological and cultural traits. My thesis critiques the evolutionary psychology field, under which the study of assortative mating and sexual selection fall, and makes conjectures about the direction it is heading.

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Daniel DeMars

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
 Adviser: Kraig Beyerlein

“Death Metal and the Egyptian Revolution”

Using Havel’s concept of “living within the truth,” I examined the relationship between the Egyptian heavy metal scene and the foundations of the ongoing Egyptian revolution. I was in Cairo at the start of the January 25 revolution and was inspired to use it for my thesis, which unites my love for Egypt and the revolution with my interest in the relationship between culture and politics.

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Justin DeRosa

Department of English
 Double major in history
 Adviser: John Staud

“Tolkien on Water: Wrath, Grace, Providence”

I argue Tolkien gives a decided, deliberate agency to water in *The Lord of the Rings*, through which water functions as a powerful catalyst for and contributor to the fight for freedom—manifesting as the biblical qualities of wrath, grace, and providence. Because Catholicism was so important to him, I thought it would be interesting to examine an element of Tolkien’s narrative to see how his religion manifests.

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Rian Dineen

Department of Philosophy
 Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
 Adviser: Paul Weithman

“Rawls and G.A. Cohen: Disputing Political Constructivism”

G.A. Cohen critiques John Rawls’ presentation of “political constructivism”—the procedure by which societal principles of justice can be constructed—and disputes his method as the proper means of arriving at principles of justice. I offer a defense of Rawls and suggest why I think the methodology of constructivism more accurately accounts for what justice has been understood to be in the tradition of Western thought.

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Keenan Duffey

Department of Classics

Adviser: Joseph Amar

“Arabic Language Satellite Television and the Arab Spring”

My thesis examines the emancipating impact of Arabic language satellite television networks on the Middle East and North Africa. The networks' presence has ended the government monopoly on information and fueled Arabs to challenge their authoritarian regimes. I studied abroad in both Cairo and Beirut, and the Arab Spring has captivated me for the past year.

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Matt Duncan

Department of Political Science

Adviser: Michael Desch

“Palestinian Membership at the United Nations”

I examined the Palestinian effort to gain full membership to the United Nations by reviewing the historical context of U.N. participation in the conflict, looking at institutional changes that membership could bring, and evaluating the overall viability of this strategy in achieving long-term Palestinian goals. My interest in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict began when I studied abroad in Jerusalem and continued during my time at the American University in Cairo.

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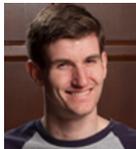
**Sarah Dzurik**

Department of Political Science
 Minor in European studies
 Adviser: Vincent Phillip Muñoz

“The Development of Criminal Defendants’ Rights in American Constitutional Law”

I researched the development of criminal defendants’ rights. My thesis focuses on the right to counsel in the American justice system and references the United States Constitution and Supreme Court cases and opinions. I interned at the St. Joseph County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office in South Bend, and during this time, I became interested in the rights a criminal defendant has and how these rights came to be guaranteed.

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**Peter Elliot**

Department of Political Science
 Double major in economics
 Minor in Irish studies
 Adviser: Christian Davenport

“Good Cop, Bad Cop: The Falls Curfew and the Evolution of Policing of Nationalist Enclaves in Belfast”

Following the 1969 violence in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary attempted to maintain peace in the streets and counter the growing insurgent movement. In 1970, the British Army instituted the Falls Curfew, effectively declaring martial law intended to root out insurgents. I examined the evolving role of the police force following the curfew and visited Belfast twice to collect primary documents about police practices during the Troubles.

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Christine Fagan

Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
Double major in English
Adviser: Richard Donnelly

“Recreation of 1873 Bustle Gown”

I researched and recreated an 1873 bustle gown based on images from magazine fashion prints as well as techniques learned from research in London and Stratford, Canada. In addition to the gown, I wrote a 20-page description on the broader scope of this fashion period.

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Sara Felsenstein

Department of English
Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
Adviser: Joyelle McSweeney

“Dessert Tuesdays’ and Other Stories”

For my thesis, I wrote three short stories about the relationship between obsession and the hyperconnectivity of the modern world. I consider how outside pressures from the media and public interactions on the Internet affect our personal development. My stories deal with subjects such as eating disorders and broken family relationships to shed light on the pressures young people face today.

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Ryan Finegan

Department of Political Science
Adviser: Steve Reifenberg

“The Rise of the United States’ Land Trust Movement and the Chilean Private Conservation Frontier”

My thesis examines the possibilities for private conservation in Chile and the legal mechanisms necessary to defuse land trust organizations into Latin America’s first country. This allowed me to take my interest in land conservation issues and combine it with the country I grew to love during my time abroad.

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Jason G’Sell

Department of Sociology
Minor in gender studies
Adviser: Dan Myers

“Queering Communities: Examining the Relationship Between the Gay Community and Well Being”

I studied different areas of involvement in the gay community—social, political organizations, outreach groups, and consumption of gay media—to determine which leads to the highest levels of well being among LGBT men and women, including factors such as self-esteem, life satisfaction, attitudes toward homosexuality, and lowest levels of depression.

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Adriana Garcia

Department of Sociology
 Double major in theology
 Advisers: Christian Smith and David Sikkink

“Otherworldliness’: Spirituality and Deviance in the Lives of Young Hispanic Adults”

I studied gang members and their religious attitudes in an attempt to understand the moral code they use to navigate the social world. I have watched family members and friends get caught up in the gang lifestyle and always felt called to be an advocate for at-risk youth in my community. Also, I’m curious about gang members’ relationship with Christianity, and sociological studies have not delved into this concept.

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Elise Garton

Department of Political Science
 Double major in English
 Adviser: Andrew Gould

“Islamophobia in Spain: Prejudice, Historical Memory, and National Identity”

I present a definition of Islamophobia in Spain based on the origins of the word and its usage, the word’s frequency in Spanish books and newspapers, and public surveys of Spaniards and Muslims. I then explore why Islamophobia is manifested in this way by examining its relationship to Spain’s economic crisis, different types of prejudices, and historical memory.

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**Patrick Gill**

Department of Political Science
 Double major in history
 Adviser: John McGreevy

“Vote Like Your Whole World Depended on It: Fear in Political Advertising, 1968 and 2004”

I explore the fundamental relationship between context and political campaign strategy. I delve into the ways in which the use of fear in television advertising both reflects and attempts to avoid the particular context of an election, analyzing traditional criticisms of political advertisements. This topic is relevant today and blends my two majors, history and political science, particularly well.

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**Eileen Gillespie**

Department of American Studies
 Adviser: Benedict Giamo

“Nutritionally Bankrupt: Supermarkets in South Bend, Indiana, and their Role in Food Equity”

I examine the inequalities in food availability and quality, and connect food to class in the United States. This thesis uses the American supermarket as a microcosm that demonstrates that food is used as a form of capital in the American business system, rather than as a fulfillment of a human need.

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**Christopher Gleason**

Department of English
Adviser: Peter Holland

“Insides and Outsides: The Performance of Character in The Merchant of Venice”

My thesis explores the ways personal and social forms of identity are constructed and “performed” in *The Merchant of Venice*, arguing that these creations are strikingly unreliable rather than simply problematic. I enjoy writing about literary works that trouble me, and this influenced my choice to work on this play, starting with the question: Why should this play still be read, taught, and performed?

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**Oscar Gonzalez Jr.**

Department of Psychology
Minor in European studies
Adviser: Anre Venter

“Self-Concept Consistency in Dialectical and Non-Dialectical Cultures”

I studied how consistently people from different cultures describe themselves across different contexts, such as in a classroom or with their siblings. The consistency of the description changes depending on their ethnicity or the presence of dialectism in their culture. While spending summer 2010 in South Africa and junior year in Spain, I was able to work with researchers from around the world and make great academic connections.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Joel Graczyk**

Department of English
 Double major in economics
 Adviser: Kate Marshall

“The American Dream in The Great Gatsby and The Diamond as Big as the Ritz”

When taken together, these two works by F. Scott Fitzgerald paint a deeply ironic picture of the American Dream by placing into conflict those individuals who desire a change in their economic and social circumstances and those who already possess the wealth and luxury that serve as the object of desire for others.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Amanda Gray**

Department of American Studies
 Double major in English
 Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
 Adviser: Erika Doss

“Dungeons, Dragons, and ‘Dweebs’: Role-Playing Games in 21st Century America”

People spend hours imagining and exploring a fabricated world—but why? I did an ethnographic exploration of gamer culture, including how gamer society is formed, how outsiders look at gamers, what it’s like to be a girl in gaming, and what the future of gaming looks like, all wrapped up in an exploration of what it means to be creative in today’s culture.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Michael Grieco

Department of Sociology
Adviser: Richard Williams

“Undocumented Workers and the United States Economy From Employers’ Perspectives”

I interviewed roughly a dozen employers from the Chicagoland area. I asked their opinions concerning the commonality of hiring undocumented workers in their industry, as well as a number of other questions. I wanted to better understand this topic, since most of what is out there on this subject is statistical in nature.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Erin Hallagan

Department of English
Supplementary major in Spanish
Adviser: Barbara Green

“Renegotiating the Limits of Autobiography: Dave Eggers and A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius”

My thesis examines how Dave Eggers pushes the bounds of autobiography by creating a memoir that uses elements of fiction and nonfiction. I chose this topic because I initially read Eggers’ work in a seminar on autobiography. I found his voice to be refreshing and wanted to explore the ways in which his work is reflective of contemporary notions of self and identity, given new forms of media saturation.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Rachel Hamilton

Department of English
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Orlando Menes

“Tia Sonia”

My thesis is a novel-length creative writing project written in brief, anecdotal sections. The piece traces the Azorean-American Almeida family over three generations. I chose to write a creative piece about Azorean-Americans because I was interested in exploring two things: the dynamics of long-separated families and the little-known Azorean-Portuguese immigrant community in New England.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Norah Hass

Department of Psychology
 Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

“Individuation Moderates the Relationship Between Shyness, Loneliness, and Adaptation in Late Adolescence”

This work builds on previous research that has shown that shyness and loneliness are related to poor college adjustment. It extends that research by demonstrating that individuation, or the ability to establish a healthy identity independent of peers and parents, moderates the relationships shyness and loneliness have with adjustment problems.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Matthew Hawk**

Department of English
 Minor in theology
 Adviser: Matthew Wilkens

“Flexibility of Style and Narrative Shortcoming in Breakfast at Tiffany’s and In Cold Blood”

Although *In Cold Blood* was the next major work Truman Capote published after *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, little criticism focuses on the similarities between the two: similar protagonists, numerous written insertions, etc. And although both works attempt to create holistic accounts, both fail. The written insertions are just as limited as the main stories they attempt to elaborate upon, illustrating the limitations of narrative.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Patrick Hernandez**

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Latin American studies
 Adviser: Scott Mainwaring

“A New Century of Corporatism: Organized Labor and Representational Monopolies in Mexico and Argentina, 1982–2011”

I investigated the state of corporatism in Argentine and Mexican labor markets since 1982. I traced the trajectory and strength of corporatist institutions in both countries and articulated a framework for determining the cause of changes in the level of corporatism. While most Latin American countries now have functioning democracies, I was interested in the sphere of organized labor, wherein corporatist actors continue to retain an arguably undemocratic representational monopoly.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Henry Hodes

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
 Adviser: John Griffin

“Nonviolent and Violent Resistance in the Arab Spring”

Why are some resistance movements nonviolent and others violent? In the Arab Spring, some cases have been nonviolent, such as Tunisia and Egypt, while others have seen transitions to violent insurgencies, such as Libya and Syria. I seek to explain the transition and predict where and when it will occur in the future.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Amy Holsinger

Department of American Studies
 Adviser: Annie Coleman

“Making Race on the Frontier: Disney’s West in Los Angeles and Paris”

My thesis explores the presentation of Western images and race construction in the Frontierland areas of Disney’s theme parks in California (Disneyland) and France (Disneyland Paris). It contends that the Walt Disney Company exploits flexible perceptions of the frontier to create a homogenous and altogether “placeless” West. My research fills a gap in current Disney scholarship and taps into the often-underrepresented area of transnational American studies.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Joey Horan**

Department of English
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Valerie Sayers

“Part One: Fear and Loathing in São Paulo”

My creative writing thesis is a novella about a chronically conflicted 20 year old volunteering in São Paulo. I wanted to explore the darker, more unsettling feelings that can occur when serving others: What gives me the right? Am I making a difference? Is it presumptuous to expect to make a difference?

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Wesley Horton**

Department of Political Science
 Double major in economics
 Adviser: Andrew Gould

“The Rise and Fall of Silvio Berlusconi: Political Cleavages, Tactical Alliances, and Personal Appeal”

This paper examines Italian political development and describes the structural causes of the longevity of Berlusconi’s rule, as well as those that led to his eventual resignation. I became interested in Italian politics while I was studying abroad in Rome. Silvio Berlusconi is an especially interesting individual because of his unprecedented tenure and his success in preserving the dominance of moderate to conservative political factions.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Lily Hough

Department of Political Science

Adviser: Naunihal Singh

“The Calculations Behind a Humanitarian Intervention: U.S. Domestic Politics and Selective Humanitarian Engagements in the Post-Cold War World”

Why does the United States launch some humanitarian interventions and avoid others? To explain the selectivity of U.S. engagement through the lens of international relations theory, my thesis analyzes which restraints and concerns—both structural and domestic, as well as ideological—count the most in the U.S. humanitarian policy-making process.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Caroline Hudson

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
(Chinese)

Supplementary major in preprofessional studies

Adviser: Lionel Jensen

“HIV/AIDS in China: Economic Impact and Other Consequences”

Many Westerners don't even know the problem of HIV/AIDS exists in China, and there is much to learn from the epidemic. How the government has dealt with it, the public's perception of it, and even the types of groups commonly infected all reflect flaws in China's public health system. I contend we must consider how the country has dealt with HIV/AIDS when discussing China as a future economic super power.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Barbara Johnson**

Department of American Studies

Minor in art history

Adviser: Erika Doss

“The Myth of the American Indian: Representations and Identity of Upper Midwest Tribes”

I address the problem of representation of Upper Midwest Indian tribes. I contend that the history of Native American visual representations by white explorer-artists like George Catlin has caused these tribes to be overlooked in art, while romantic images of Plains and Southwestern Indians remain popular. I investigated why certain images have become pervasive and why some seem to be overlooked in museums and consumer culture.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Kjerstin Johnson

Department of American Studies

Supplementary major in Spanish

Adviser: Collin Meissner

“From ‘Keeping up with the Joneses’ to Keeping Up With the Kardashians: American Consumerism on Display”

I analyze how turn-of-the-20th-century theories of the leisure class and ostentatious displays of wealth are embodied in contemporary American reality television as reflections of Gilded Age literature. I trace this evolution by comparing Lily Bart’s obsession with social status (in *The House of Mirth*) to the Kardashians’ fame obsession. The relevance of today’s leisure class reveals a socio-economic system that needs to be critiqued in hopes of a redemptive society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Michael Johnson

Department of History
Adviser: Daniel Graff

“Be Patriots Because You Have A Country’: The Fenian Brotherhood and Irish-American Identity in Civil War-Era Philadelphia”

By looking at the Fenian Brotherhood, an Irish nationalist organization that fought for Ireland’s independence, I seek to understand the tensions of adopting loyalty to the United States while at the same time remaining loyal to the Irish homeland. I did research in the Philadelphia area and was fortunate to find that the Fenian papers have been digitized by Villanova University.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Hilary Kelly

Department of Political Science
Minor in European studies
Adviser: Sebastian Rosato

“Sex and War”

I tested the logic and empirical evidence of a theory of international politics that states that countries with skewed male-female ratios are more likely to go to war than countries with normal sex ratios. After reading *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and “Gendercide” in *The Economist*, I was interested in the phenomenon of “missing” women and extreme gender discrimination.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Thom Kenealy

Department of Political Science
Adviser: Robert Brathwaite

“Powerful Friends, Human Rights, and the Resolution of Secessionist Conflict”

My thesis examines the two competing explanations for the resolution of secessionist conflict—those relating to material factors and those relating to normative factors—and attempts to reconcile the two into a succinct theory capable of predicting conflict outcomes. I was first introduced to this topic while working with Northern Irish teens coping with the still-existent tensions following the Troubles, and a semester abroad in Dublin solidified my interest.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Mark Kettler

Department of History
Double major in political science
Adviser: John Deak

“In Steadfast Loyalty: National Defense and Bavarian Catholics in the Second Reich”

I explore the foundations of Bavarian Catholic loyalty to the German Empire at the outset of WWI and attempt to resolve why this population supported an empire that had consistently assailed its particularistic identity. I propose that while Bavarians defended their own culture and autonomy, they accepted the German Empire as a necessary superstructure for common defense. For this project, I worked in archives in Berlin and Munich.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Chelsea King

Department of Philosophy
 Double major in theology
 Advisers: John Betz and Richard Cross

“Thomas Aquinas and René Girard on Sacrifice”

My thesis focuses on the diverse understandings of Christ’s sacrificial death in the work of Thomas Aquinas and René Girard. My aim is to compare Girard’s analysis of the sacrificial nature of Jesus’ death (as the “innocent victim”) with that of Aquinas’ approach to the sacrificial death of Christ in service of a robust soteriology that takes into account our (post-) modern evolutionary context.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Ellen Kozelka

Department of Anthropology
 Adviser: Fr. Patrick Gaffney, C.S.C.

“Endurance Through Fluidity: The Changing Nature of Mongolian Shamanism”

Using the case study of Mongolian shamanism, I argue that religion and politics are inextricably intertwined. I spent the summer in Mongolia as part of my internship with the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, and I became interested in the differences of Eastern religions and worldviews.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Dylan Krieger

Department of English
Double major in philosophy
Minor in Latin
Adviser: Johannes Göransson

“Hole Water”

My thesis is a series of short poems that aims to blur the borders between subject and environment, natural and artificial, internal and external. It achieves this effect particularly through its use of unstable or grotesque imagery, as well as its ever-fluctuating levels of formal constraint/freedom and lingual elevation/crudity.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Jessika LaPres

Department of Psychology
Double Major in sociology
Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

“Marital Conflict Style and Child Depression: A Longitudinal Examination of Emotional Security as a Mediator”

I examine the effects of marital conflict style in children’s early years on their level of depressive symptoms in adolescence. I have a passion for working with adolescents and have done previous research on depression and suicide, so this topic is of great interest to me.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Catherine Latell**

Department of English
 Minor in peace studies
 Adviser: Yasmin Solomonescu

“The Paradox of the Cell in Matthew Gregory Lewis’ The Monk”

The cell in this novel is a space within the monastery that doesn’t fulfill its function as a place of prayer where a connection to God can be created; contrarily, the private space is where Ambrosio unleashes the sin of pride. Lewis’ novel is controversial in its criticism of the Catholic Church, so I knew there would be plenty to work with in writing my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Mariel Lee**

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
 (Chinese)
 Minor in Mediterranean/Middle East studies
 Adviser: Xiaoshan Yang

“Chinese International Students’ Acculturation at Notre Dame

My thesis explores the quality of life for Chinese international students at Notre Dame. It evaluates their academic, emotional, and social well being through interviews and an online survey. My inspiration stemmed from conversations with friends who are Chinese international students. I realized I wanted to evaluate whether Notre Dame was doing everything it could to make these students’ transitions to life here as easy as possible.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Ashley Logsdon**

Department of Theology
 Double major in biological science
 Adviser: Margaret Pfeil

“Cultivating a Worldview of Wonder as a Christian Response to Environmental Crisis”

I propose that rekindling a worldview of wonder can serve as a dynamic, Christian response to ecological crisis. Wonder is both attitude and profound experience, and humans forge an emotional bond with Creation through the universal capacity for wonder. This thesis is an attempt to address this need for motivation by drawing on my own intuitions about wonder in concert with insights from the Christian tradition.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Mary Longenbaker**

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Chinese
 Adviser: Xiaoshan Yang

“Countercultural Daoism: The Dialectic of Religious Daoism and Confucianism in Ge Hong’s Traditions of Divine Transcendence”

Through a contradiction of the traditional social order in the narratives compiled in *Traditions of Divine Transcendence*, third century author Ge Hong attempts to convey his personal view of the Dao as a key method for achieving transcendence. Through a greater understanding of Hong’s work, I hope to call further attention to the influence of religious Daoism in past and present Chinese society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Maria Lynch**

Department of English
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Kate Marshall

“Things I Know but Am not Knowen’: The Latent Feminism of Tillie Olsen’s Yonnondio”

Although Tillie Olsen was involved in Marxism and proletarian realism early in her life, *Yonnondio*, which she wrote in the 1930s but published in the 1970s, ventures outside that into complex diction, imagery, and figurative language to depict more accurately the struggles of its characters, especially women. Olsen may not have been consciously feminist, but I examine how her writing style brings that perspective to the fore.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Mary Claire Madden**

Department of American Studies
 Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
 Adviser: Erika Doss

“Women in American Politics: Image Projection and Media Construction”

I examined women’s constructed relationship to electoral politics in the United States, specifically, Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin in the 2008 election. This relationship reflects the strong external emphasis the public and media place on women politicians and their image. Presently, 83 percent of the members of Congress are men, and I wanted to explore the media’s role in generating this “absence” of women in American politics.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Michael Magill**

Department of Economics
 Minor in European studies
 Adviser: James Sullivan

“The Effect of Variance on Major League Baseball Wages”

I am empirically testing the theory that riskier workers, those with the same average output but a higher variance, receive a higher wage than safe workers. I am using data from Major League Baseball from 1987 to 2009, emphasizing 2004 to 2009. My thesis allows me to test the hypothesis that employers were less likely to reward “breakout” years—after the introduction of stricter drug testing in 2004—for fear they were boosted by performance enhancing drugs.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Caroline Maloney

Department of Art, Art History, and Design (art history)
 Double major in anthropology
 Adviser: Kathleen Pyne

“‘God-Daughter of a Witch and Sister to a Fairy’: Pamela Colman Smith and the Celtic Twilight”

This art historical study analyzes Pamela Colman Smith’s involvement with the Celtic Twilight movement in the first decade of the 20th century. I examine how Smith learned to artistically and personally operate through the Irish folkloric and mystical strands of Celtic Twilight discourse, and I endeavor to understand her legacy as one of the few illustrators and watercolorists to visualize Celtic Twilight themes.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Tommy Maranges

Department of Philosophy
Adviser: Robert Audi

“Liberty, Luxury, and Future Generations”

I take up questions about future generations from a libertarian perspective. Since it seems like we can do irreparable damage to them, and they can't pursue any of the typical legal remedies (in virtue of not yet existing), do we have more positive duties toward our children's children?

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Amy Maslar

Department of Economics
Double major in political science
Adviser: Alexandra Guisinger

“Reform Choice in the Former Soviet Union Countries”

I studied the states that came about as a direct product of the [dissolution of the] Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. When the nations of Eastern Europe moved to establish political democracies, they were able to choose the economic, political, and legal reforms to make that transition effective. How those reforms fare when the system is shaken with a financial crisis reflects on the strength and effectiveness of the initial reforms.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Kathryn Mayka

Department of English
 Double major in Spanish
 Minor in art history
 Adviser: Margaret Doody

“A Picture of Difference: The Portrait in Camilla and Pride and Prejudice”

My thesis compares how the novels *Camilla* by Frances Burney and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen handle the motif of the portrait as an illustration of character. I examine the functions of literal portraits, textual portraits, and figurative portraits as they contribute to the message of each novel.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Gabriel McDonald

Department of Philosophy
 Adviser: Jeffrey Speaks

“Toward a Linguistic Elimination of Metaphysics”

I attempt to show how the field of metaphysics might be reduced to a set of purely verbal disputes. Metaphysical anti-realism is a significant and influential movement in contemporary analytic philosophy that aims to eliminate several big philosophical questions that have plagued us for centuries. I am interested in understanding and contributing to this movement and hope to focus on it further in graduate school.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Anne McKeon

Department of American Studies
 Supplementary major in peace studies
 Adviser: Kathleen Cummings

“American Efforts to End China’s One-Child Policy: All Girls Allowed, Advocacy, and Adoption”

As China’s coercive one-child policy exceeds its 30-year mark, American nonprofit organizations and religious activists are the major entities putting pressure on the U.S. government to take action against the human rights and demographic implications associated with it. The ways in which American governmental and non-governmental sectors are working to end this policy are of considerable interest to me.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Meghan McKinney

Department of English
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Cyraina Johnson-Roullier

“‘Not Wholly True’: The Myth of American Community in Nella Larsen’s Passing”

Using Slavoj Žižek’s theory of national desire, I examine how social pressures generated by American exceptionalism motivate Irene Redfield, an African-American woman, to pursue a superficial relationship with the light-skinned Clare Kendry in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*. By exposing how Irene uses Clare to mask the difference between her ideal America and the reality of segregation, Larsen critiques the American fantasy directly related to issues of racial division still masked by modern society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Shannon McNaught**

Department of Art, Art History, and Design (art history)
 Supplementary major in French and Francophone studies
 Minor in European studies
 Adviser: Kathleen Pyne

“The Real Caillebotte Affair: Examining the Shifts in Reception of the Private Collection of Gustave Caillebotte”

Upon his death, Impressionist Gustave Caillebotte bequeathed to France his entire private art collection, an array of nearly 70 works from artists such as Monet, Renoir, and Cézanne. The French administration, however, only accepted a portion of the paintings and pastels. I assert this resulted in a shift in the originally intended reception of the collection. I traveled to Paris to see the collection and did research in archives there.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Margaret Millea

Department of Psychology
 Adviser: Joshua Diehl

“Understanding the Role of Temperament in the Development of Social Anxiety in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders”

My project studies the development of social anxiety in children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), investigating the relationship between negative affect and social skill levels. I chose this topic because I am interested in understanding the challenges that individuals with ASD and their families face, and in studying factors that enhance or hinder social interactions and friendships for these individuals.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Laura Miller

Department of Psychology
Adviser: Julia Braungart-Rieker

“Predictors of Toddler Compliance and Noncompliance: Parental Sensitivity and Mutually Positive Affect”

My thesis investigates the relationship between several infant and parent characteristics—specifically, parental sensitivity, parental affect, and infant affect—as predictors of compliant and noncompliant behaviors in toddlers. This longitudinal study follows infants from seven months to 20 months of age and involves both mothers and fathers.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Kirsten Milliard

Department of Art, Art History, and Design (art history)
Double major in theology
Adviser: Danielle Joyner

“Images of the Crucifixion From the Scriptorium of Saint-Bertin, c. 1000 C.E.”

My thesis compares two Crucifixion scenes, one in a psalter and one in a Gospel book, that were created under the direction of Abbot Odbert at the Flemish monastery of Saint-Bertin, c. 1000 C.E. Through this comparison, I explore the theological and cultural themes of interest to the monks who created the manuscripts.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Caitlin Monesmith**

Department of Anthropology
Adviser: Patrick Gaffney

“Social Life After Death: Cemetery Placement as Evidence of Social Mobility”

I am using grave placement in three London cemeteries to demonstrate the importance of Victorian social morals and values in a cemetery setting, and to show how people who had been marginalized in life used the physical constructs of placement and design to create a legacy of social conformation. I did a great deal of research in London while studying abroad.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Lauren Morehouse**

Department of Psychology
Supplementary major in Spanish
Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

“Adolescent Psychopathology and Marital Conflict: Behavioral Dysregulation as a Mediator of Externalizing Behavior”

Destructive and violent marital conflict—characterized by aggression, hostility, and a lack of conflict resolution—has been shown to have particularly pronounced effects on child development. I am investigating behavioral dysregulation as a mediator between destructive marital conflicts and externalizing problem behaviors—such as lying, cheating, and acting out—in adolescents.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Kellen Mrkva

Department of Psychology

Adviser: Darcia Narvaez

“Judging Fast and Slow: Does Reflection Alter Moral Judgment”

Theorists have formed models of moral judgment that give quick intuition a substantial role; however, new studies are suggesting that reflection and reasoning systematically influence judgment. I desire to shed light on this debate through two studies that will determine how reflection may change a variety of moral judgments.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Rachael Niezgodski

Department of Psychology

Adviser: Alexandra Corning

“Unhealthy Intimacy: Fat Talk in the Mother-Daughter Relationship”

Fat talk, women’s negative conversations regarding eating and their bodies, is related to, and can cause problems such as, body dissatisfaction. This study assessed predictors of fat talk that occurs between late-adolescent daughters and their mothers. I was interested in whether the type of intimacy experienced in the mother-daughter relationship impacted negative conversations concerning women’s bodies, and I hope my research can start important conversations regarding this relationship.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**MacKenzie Nunez**

Department of Anthropology
 Minor in Mediterranean/Middle East studies
 Adviser: Susan Guise Sheridan

“Long in the Tooth: Tracing Migration Through Stable Isotopes in Dental Enamel From Byzantine St. Stephen’s”

This study sought to reexamine the origins of those buried at the Byzantine monastery of St. Stephen’s in Jerusalem, from the fifth to seventh centuries C.E. Many years of investigation have gleaned extensive knowledge about this urban monastic community; however, questions of the geographic origins of those interred at there still remain.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Hanna O'Brien**

Department of Anthropology
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Rahul Oka

“Quality of Life for the Sick and Dying: Perspectives of Health Disparities, Challenges in Ugandan Palliative Care, and Its Relation to Disease-Modifying Services”

Through narrative, I analyze the challenges in Ugandan palliative care and their relation to disease-modifying treatments as they present in patient and provider perspectives. I examine the accessibility and allocation of services as well as the nature and impact of the palliative care institution in the dynamics of Ugandan society. I spent time in Uganda traveling to medical facilities in the central and eastern regions performing ethnographic research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Mary Claire O'Donnell
 Department of Classics
 Adviser: Keith Bradley

“Paradoxically Partnered: The Roman Concepts of War and Peace on Trajan’s Column”

I studied the visual representations of war and peace on the Column of Trajan in Rome. I specifically studied why an emperor dedicated to preserving peace would so proudly and graphically display scenes of warfare in a public space. I became interested in Trajan, his reign, and this column when I studied abroad in Rome in fall 2010.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Maisie O'Malley
 Department of American Studies
 Adviser: Collin Meissner

“Cul-de-Sac Culture Within City Limits: Exploring the Urban/ Suburban Border in Chicago”

I contextualize the genesis of a Chicago community as a “railroad suburb” with its development as a residentially segregated Chicago neighborhood and its subsequent efforts to control integration through urban planning methods. I’m interested in why residents of Chicago suburbs often say they are from Chicago when they do not live within the city limits. Pondering this question led me to explore what constitutes urban and suburban communities.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Anna O'Meara

Department of Art, Art History, and Design (art history)

Minor in French

Adviser: Gabrielle Gopinath

“Cinema Against Cinema: Imagery in Howls for Sade”

Howls for Sade by Guy-Ernest Debord is a film without images that transitions between black and white screens. It has an occasional white-screen voiceover and 20 minutes of black silence at the end. I investigated the aesthetic and political aspects of this film and how it participates in discourse with its artistic predecessors and the cultural context that informs it.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Cristen O'Meara

Department of Political Science

Double major in economics

Adviser: Alexandra Guisinger

“The Role of Government Accountability During Times of Financial Instability”

My thesis looks to determine if some policymakers are institutionally more capable of defending their countries' economies during times of increased instability in the international financial system. Using quantitative analysis, I study three historic crises to determine if a consistent trend exists between levels of government accountability and capital flight.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Rebecca Page**

Department of American Studies
 Double major in French
 Adviser: Sophie White

“The French Chef in America: Presentations of French Gourmet Cooking”

I studied examples of French gourmet cuisine from the 1960s to present to understand the role of chefs as cultural brokers in American culture. I approached printed instructional cooking manuals as important cultural artifacts that say something about media conversations in our culture. My intention with this project was to analyze the ways food acts as a medium of cultural interaction, particularly between French and American chefs.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Stephen Payne**

Department of Political Science
 Supplementary major in history
 Adviser: A. James McAdams

“The Path Not Taken: Eurocommunism and the United States”

I examine the foreign policy responses of the United States to the potential for communist parties in France and Italy. I look at the post-war period and late 1970s and analyze how U.S. policy did or didn't change in the context of confrontation and detente. This was based on my interest in international relations and world communism developed through my research in the Kellogg Institute's International Scholars Program.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Stephanie Perez

Department of American Studies
 Minor in Latino studies
 Adviser: Jason Ruiz

“They Made It, Now What? A Critical Study of the Cristo Rey Network’s Preparation of Latino Students for College”

The Cristo Rey network provides an affordable Catholic high school education for underprivileged urban youth. In addition, these students work one day a week with various organizations to help pay for their education. I focus on the Latino graduates of Cristo Rey schools in Chicago, Houston, Washington, D.C., to determine if this model is effective in preparing students with the skills necessary to succeed in college.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Mark Pesce

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
 Adviser: Susan Pratt Rosato

“Relinquishing Sovereignty: A Case Study of the International Criminal Court”

I analyze the conditions necessary for nation-states to voluntarily join international and intergovernmental organizations that force them to relinquish some of their sovereignty, using the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a case study. The ICC poses the greatest threat to traditional concepts of sovereignty since the Peace of Westphalia. I surveyed existing theories of sovereignty erosion to see if the advent of the ICC furthered this erosion.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Katie Petrik

Program of Liberal Studies
 Double major in Arabic
 Adviser: Francesca Bordogna

“Showings of the Mystical Mind”

I explore the neurological and psychological changes that take place in the mystical mind, with emphasis on the historical case study of Julian of Norwich’s mysticism. I analyze how her text *The Showings* supports and challenges elements of current theories of mysticism. Neuroscience and mysticism are two fascinating subjects, and I wanted to study what they could tell us about each other.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Ariella Phillips

Program of Liberal Studies
 Double major in Italian
 Adviser: Pierpaolo Polzonetti

“Don Giovanni and Revolutions in Italian Theatre”

I wanted to understand why Lorenzo Da Ponte and W. A. Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* is a theatrical revolution. I studied Italian theatre history, especially Commedia dell’Arte and Erudite theatre, here on campus and abroad in Italy. L’Università di Bologna and its incredible theatre department, DAMS (*discipline delle arti, della musica e dello spettacolo*), were invaluable to my research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Kirsten Prabhudas

Department of Anthropology
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Carolyn Nordstrom

“Health, Identity, and Movement: Being Rwandan in South Bend”

This paper is about people in movement and how they define themselves within that movement. I approach these themes for Rwandans through concepts of health and the body, finding that these are central to identity. This affects the doctor-patient encounter and, thus, has implications for the practice of medicine. As an anthropologist and preprofessional studies student, I am interested in the best way of practicing cross-cultural medicine.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Christin Prats

Department of Political Science
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Joshua Kaplan

“What Are the Incentives Behind Foreign Aid Policy? Examining the EU-Moroccan Foreign Aid Relationship from 2001 to 2011”

My thesis is an assessment of the incentives behind European Union foreign-aid policy to Morocco. My research project provided a unique opportunity to explore a topic that had only been touched upon in political science classes.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Adriana Pratt

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
 Adviser: Eileen Hunt Botting

“Rape as a Tool of War in Congo and How Journalists Have Covered It”

My thesis explores the history of rape as a tool of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and how it is used today. I also examine feminist theories on rape in war and analyze how three journalistic sources have covered the topic. I traveled to New York to conduct interviews with these sources about this underreported, devastating, and extremely important subject.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Casey Quinlan

Department of English
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: José Limón

“Sandra Cisneros on Real-World Family Problems: Domestic Violence Against Women and Children, Marital Infidelity, and Sexual Violence”

I explore the ways men approach women’s sexuality in the works of Sandra Cisneros. I argue that in Cisneros’ works, men fear the sexuality of women and, therefore, attempt to control it, often resulting in violent behaviors such as domestic abuse and rape. I use sociological studies to determine whether Cisneros’ bleak portrayal of the state of affairs in modern Latino culture is exaggerated or accurate.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Bridget Quinn

Department of Psychology
 Double major in biology
 Adviser: Jessica Payne

“The Influence of Stress and the Stress Hormone Cortisol on Human Creativity”

I explore the effects of stress-induced elevations of cortisol on creative performance. I use a psychosocial stressor and focus on the associative definition of creativity—the useful ability to recombine associative elements to solve problems with specific requirements. Although creative problem solving also relies on the hippocampus and is an essential component of higher-level cognition, the impact of elevated cortisol on creative performance has not yet been studied.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Lauren Rasch

Program of Liberal Studies
 Adviser: Eric Bugyis

“Women’s Rites: The Ordination of Women in the Catholic Church”

I argue that, although gender is an important part of identity, it is not relevant to the Christian vocation. Thus, the Church should shift away from an economy of sex and sacrifice, predicated on gender essentialism, toward an economy of friendship and gift, predicated on universal human experience, making room for women and men alike to speak from the altar.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Robert Rauch

Department of Theology
 Double major in history
 Adviser: John Cavadini

“The Use of Demonology in Early Christian Apologetics”

The works of early Christian apologists often include references to demons. Although today’s audience may overlook them as symbolic, for the ancient writers and their audiences, demons represented real (even if not physical) beings. My thesis focuses on the inclusion and meaning of demons in the apologetic works of Justin Martyr and Origen. I hope to generate discussion about how demonology influenced early apologists.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Nicholas Reaves

Department of Economics
 Double major in political science
 Adviser: Eileen Hunt Botting

“Religious Toleration in Modern Europe: An Analysis of Societal Reactions to Muslim Immigrants in Light of Two Historical Theories of Toleration”

I look at the burqa ban in France and Muslim Arbitration Tribunals in Britain in light of John Locke and John Stuart Mill’s theories of religious toleration. I first took a class in political theory second semester freshman year and really enjoyed the material. In my junior year, I took a seminar on Islam in Modern Europe and thought I would combine these two interests for my thesis.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Melissa Regan

Department of Sociology
 Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society
 Adviser: Jessica Collett

“Communication and Collaboration in School-Based Occupational Therapy”

My research is an analysis of in-depth interviews with school-based occupational therapists in order to identify the individual and structural factors that promote or constrain communication and collaboration between therapists and general-education teachers. I pay special attention to the effect of Individualized Education Plans in special education.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Samantha Reich

Department of History
 Double major in chemistry
 Minor in Education, Schooling, and Society
 Adviser: Brian Collier

“Reforming the ‘City of Speed’: Education for Democracy in Chicago Schools”

I focused on the intellectual history and educational philosophies adopted during the period of education reform in the 1890s, specifically at the University of Chicago Dewey School and Jane Addams’ Hull House. My thesis examines the importance of relating children’s experiences to their education; it is a philosophy I hope to implement in my classroom as a teacher.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Brooke Reid**

Department of Psychology

Adviser: G.A. Radvansky and Jessica Payne

“The Role of Sleep in Declarative Memories: Examining the Event Boundary Effect”

I explore the hypothesis that event boundaries in stories—such as changes in location, time, or causal contingency—are remembered better than those sentences not including event boundaries. I also examine whether a period of sleep after reading the narratives enhances those memories for event boundaries or, conversely, helps integrate them with the rest of the story, thereby reducing the effect.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Erin Reilly**

Department of Psychology

Supplementary major in Spanish

Adviser: Daniel Lapsley

“Dysfunctional Individuation, Perfectionism, and Disordered Eating Attitudes”

My thesis looks at the separation/individuation process and the role it plays in disordered eating. I examine what role the individuation process has on the widely demonstrated link between parental psychological control and disordered eating. A lot of research looks into people already in treatment for a severe form of the disorder, but I think just as much time should be put into subclinical populations.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Maggie Rhoda

Department of Classics
 Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
 Adviser: Catherine Schlegel and Robin Rhodes

“Man is the Measure of All Things: The Purpose of the Elgin Marbles in Modern Cultural Property Debate”

Through the example of the Elgin Marbles, I show that the issues debated within cultural property today should be aimed at creating mechanisms that preserve cultural and historical context rather than agitate a nationalistic polemic. After studying abroad in Athens, I became interested in why all the objects from the Acropolis were no longer in Greece. This paper combined my interests in antiquity and public policy in a global arena.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Stephanie Rice

Department of English
 Double major in theatre
 Adviser: Valerie Sayers

“The Unsetting Sun”

I wrote an action-oriented, science-fiction novella with a multi-perspective narrative structure focused on the universal themes of hopelessness, tragedy, and love. My thesis seeks to disprove the notion that action-oriented “pop fiction” novels are inherently devoid of literary merit. My goal was to create a handful of sincere, believable characters, each with a distinct first-person voice.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Kahleen Riojas

Department of Psychology
Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

“Racial Differences in Family Conflict Intervention: A Study of African-American Families”

I qualitatively explore racial differences for African Americans in the outcomes of a didactic intervention targeting family conflict. To develop a descriptive understanding of this population, I used data from the Family Communication Project (FCP), which aimed to increase constructive and decrease destructive marital and parent-adolescent conflict tactics. As one of the original FCP coaches, my interaction with families facilitated my interest in possible heterogeneity between races.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Kevin Roberts

Department of English
Adviser: Bríona Nic Dhiarmada

“Medbh McGuckian: The Linguistic Nomad”

I sought to understand the philosophical framework behind the production of Medbh McGuckian’s unique and controversial poetry. Ultimately, McGuckian’s acute sense of instability within time and place is a reflection of a deeper problem with language and our ability to articulate ourselves within it. I traveled to Ireland to study under Catriona Clutterbuck, a prominent critic within the field, at University College Dublin.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Michael Rodio

Department of Music (music performance)
 Minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy
 Adviser: Daniel Schlosberg

“Senior Recital”

I performed a recital of solo and ensemble piano music that included Sergei Rachmaninoff, Nikolai Kapustin, Franz Liszt, and George Gershwin. I wanted to present a challenging repertoire of Romantic and 20th century music that synthesizes jazz and classical styles. While studying abroad at Trinity College Dublin, I also studied as a part-time student at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with acclaimed Irish pianist Anthony Byrne.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Kelly Roper

Department of History
 Adviser: Julia Adney Thomas

“The Sherlock Holmes Phenomena: Where Truth, Fiction, and History Meet”

The phenomenon of Sherlock Holmes encapsulates the desire of the world today to understand, and in many ways relive, a time long past. As Holmes is fictional, however, the enthusiasm and readiness that permits its scholarship to be valid brings up interesting notions of historical legitimacy. I attempt to delve into these veins of thought and draw out explanations for the perceived value and practice of history.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Michael Sabella**

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
(Chinese)

Adviser: Liangyan Ge

“Inequality and the Harmonious Society Concept in Post-Socialist China”

I address China’s national dilemma: reconciling the transition to a market economy and rapid economic growth with rampant inequality and instability. By contrasting the governmental policy of “harmonious society” with myriad forms of inequality throughout the country, one realizes the dangerous lack of social and political harmony in China—and the potentially devastating consequences. I became interested in this topic after studying and interning in Beijing.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

John Sanders

Department of History

Adviser: Jon Coleman

“Transitioning Horsepower”

My thesis calls into question the progressivist assumption that the transition from horse to automobile was a quick and inevitable case of a clearly superior technology overtaking an older one. The adoption of the car was not only fraught with difficulties but also incomplete. By exploring the writings of those living during the transition, I analyze how the car became acceptable by becoming a part of nature.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Kevin Sarlo**

Department of English
 Minor in classical literature
 Adviser: Mary Burgess Smyth

“History and Hybridity in White Teeth and Brick Lane”

I study of how two recent post-colonial works by British authors explore the development of both individual and national identity. I read both novels before studying abroad in London for a semester, and as I explored the city’s immigrant neighborhoods, the questions these books raised stayed with me. When I returned to campus, I resolved to come up with an answer.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**James Schmidt**

Department of Philosophy
 Double major in mathematics
 Adviser: Curtis Franks

“Reason and Christianity”

Accepting both faith and reason does not mean that philosophy can present us with arguments to make believing rational, for given any statement we can always construct a proof. The question is “from what?” The inability of reason to answer this shows we need to look elsewhere to understand how it works.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Ann Marie Schweih

Program of Liberal Studies
Adviser: Thomas Stapleford

“Liberty and Equality in America”

My senior thesis is an exploration of the relationship of liberty and equality in Alexis de Tocqueville’s book *Democracy in America*. Specifically, I attempt to answer the question: In our age of equality, how can we preserve liberty?

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Maria Serakos

Department of Mathematics
Adviser: Kasey Buckles

“The Effects of Welfare Reform on the Postsecondary Degree Attainment of Young Adult Women”

My thesis explores the relationship between welfare reform and postsecondary educational attainment, given that the new welfare system promotes employment over schooling. I examine whether the work-first emphasis of welfare reform discourages welfare recipients from attending college long enough to obtain a degree or if welfare reform’s time limits encourage recipients to get college degrees so they have less of a chance of recidivism.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Nicole Shea

Department of Psychology
Adviser: Joshua Diehl

“Perceived Parental and Teacher Autonomy Support in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders”

My thesis investigates the effects of perceived parental and teacher autonomy support on self-determination in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and how this affects academic performance and friendships. There is a wealth of research on this topic in typically developing children but not in children with developmental disabilities, specifically ASD.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Stephanie Sieswerda

Department of Psychology
Adviser: Darcia Narvaez

“For the Health of the Baby: Improving Breastfeeding Attitudes, Knowledge, and Intentions Through Education”

My thesis is about a research project involving an education intervention aimed at teaching high school and college students about breastfeeding—and measuring how education can improve breastfeeding knowledge, intentions, and attitudes. Knowledge about breastfeeding is severely lacking in the United States, and more needs to be done to promote it in schools and in society.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Kathleen Smith

Department of Political Science
 Supplementary major in peace studies
 Adviser: Christian Davenport

“A Look at the Effects of International Interventions”

I examine where and when international interventions (economic sanctions, naming and shaming, and military interventions) are most effective in ending spells of political repression and mass atrocity. Since political repression has affected almost all countries in the past 40 years, and with the United Nation’s call for the Responsibility to Protect, I wanted to examine which measures were the most effective in protecting and promoting human rights.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Tatiana Spragins

Department of Art, Art History, and Design (art history)
 Double major in Italian
 Adviser: Gabrielle Gopinath

“Phenomenology and Richard Serra”

I describe how Richard Serra incorporates the theory of phenomenology in his video and sculptural works. At first I was interested solely in his sculptures, but as I did research into his drawings and video art, I began to understand how he embraces phenomenology in his entire approach to art making and the creative process behind it.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Stephanie Spriet

Department of English
Double major in marketing
Adviser: William Krier

“Re-Branding the Romantic Comedy”

My thesis attempts to determine whether *High Fidelity* and *(500) Days of Summer* have successfully created a new “brand” of the romantic comedy. I choose this topic because I wanted to analyze the ways film and marketing interact.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarah Sraders

Department of Political Science
Double major in Romance languages and literatures
Adviser: Scott Mainwaring

“The Effects of U.S. Aid on Violence in Colombia”

I describe how United States aid to Colombia, specifically after the year 2000, has affected the level of violence there. I wanted to see if the United States has had a positive or negative effect on the safety of Colombian citizens.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Christopher Stare
 Department of Psychology
 Adviser: Jessica Payne

“The Effects of Cognitive Reappraisal on Consolidation of Emotional Memories Over Sleep”

I examine how sleep influenced memory for emotional materials that subjects had previously viewed or to which they had “upregulated” and “downregulated” their emotional responses. Current results show that after a period of sleep, participants remembered all stimuli better than if they had been awake during consolidation.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrew Steier
 Department of Anthropology
 Double major in classics
 Adviser: Donna Glowacki

“Investigating Paint Recipes of Mesa Verde Black-on-White Bowls Through PIXE Analysis”

Particle Induced X-Ray Emission (PIXE) was used to analyze the paint on 45 Mesa Verde black-on-white bowls (1150–1300 C.E.) from Aztec Ruins National Monument in New Mexico. By comparing these paints to 15 samples of one of the possible source materials, beeweed, I hope to draw larger conclusions about pottery production at Aztec West.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

William Stewart

Program of Liberal Studies
 Double major in German
 Adviser: Mark Roche

“Irony, Dialectic, and Aporia: Aesthetic Conflict in Thomas Mann’s Doktor Faustus”

Drawing on the aesthetic theories of Friedrich Nietzsche and Arthur Schopenhauer, my project investigates the multiple, conflicting aesthetic positions present within the character of Adrian Leverkühn, the central figure in Thomas Mann’s *Doktor Faustus*. I discuss the value in the irreconcilability of dialectic aporia as a way to approach the discussion of something as complex as artistic psychology. I performed some of my project research in Berlin and Zurich.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Colin Sullivan

Department of English
 Double major in economics
 Adviser: Declan Kiberd

“Gothic Elements and the Power of the Past in James Joyce’s ‘The Dead’”

I examine James Joyce’s “The Dead,” proposing a Gothic-historic framework from which to analyze the text. This framework reveals the redemptive and revolutionary potential of evaluating and utilizing history as an allegory for how Ireland can escape the oppressive nature of a failed past. After studying abroad in Joyce’s hometown of Dublin, the historical context of his works became particularly interesting to me—and the basis for my research.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

John Sullivan

Department of Philosophy
 Double major in political science
 Adviser: Ted Warfield

“Providing a Moral Justification for Juridical Punishment”

I argue that juridical punishment can be morally justified on both consequentialist and retributivist grounds when separate justification is offered for the general aim of punishment, the assignment of punishment to specific individuals, and the implementation of punishment once properly assigned. Reading recent literature advocating the abolition of punishment in favor of less severe means inspired me to provide an argument in defense of juridical punishment.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Laura Taylor

Department of Theology
 Double major in music performance (piano)
 Minor in liturgical music ministry
 Adviser: Margot Fassler

“Adapting the Medieval Offertory for the Post-Vatican II Catholic”

My thesis is an attempt to explore the history and theology of the offertory—and integrate medieval Gregorian chant into the post-Vatican II liturgy. As an experiment, I adapted the corpus of offertory chants into simple music the entire congregation can sing during the liturgy to try to foster more active participation in the Mass.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Tyler Thiret

Department of Political Science
 Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
 Adviser: Geoffrey Layman

“Strategies of Sales and Marketing in American Political Persuasion”

Much is discussed about who has influence in Washington and what they do to demonstrate it, but little is formally written about how they do so. By applying sales and marketing theory to political influence, I think a better understanding of political strategy can be reached, as well as an insight into the dealings of Washington.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Monica Townsend

Department of Political Science
 Double major in French
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Susan Rosato

“Patterns of Involvement in Health Aid Distribution: The Cases of Preventable Blindness and HIV/AIDS”

In this paper, I analyze four political actors—donor governments, international institutions, NGOs, and the private sector—and the patterns of their involvement in public health crises in the developing world. I look at how health has become a political issue in recent years and has engaged the international community in a domain previously reserved for domestic politics and public health.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Dominique Tunzi

Department of Sociology
 Minor in Hesburgh Program in Public Service
 Adviser: William Carbonaro

“Understanding the Misalignment of Parental Expectations and Aspirations”

My research examines the misalignment of parental expectations and aspirations for ninth-grade students. I look at the possible causes of misalignment and which groups are more likely to have it. I then investigate the possible effects of the parents' misalignment on the students' own educational expectations. I chose this topic because I was interested in learning more about the potential parents have to influence their children.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Kaitlyn Uhl

Department of Political Science
 Supplementary major in peace studies
 Adviser: Andrew Bramsen

“The Evolution of Dissent: Political Opportunity, Opposition Strategies, and Public Perception in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution”

I studied the evolution of opposition tactics related to shifting political opportunity structures and changing public perceptions to explain why the 2011 Egyptian revolution garnered so much participation and elicited the realization of opposition goals in such a short span of time. I wanted to examine the elements that drew so many people to the streets in a state where public dissent often results in police brutality and imprisonment.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Caitlin Urbain**

Department of Sociology
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Adviser: Jessica Collett

“Use of Music in Speech-Language Pathology Therapy for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders”

Previous studies suggest the positive impact of using music therapy for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). I wondered to what extent speech-language pathologists know of the potential benefits of using this therapy, and for my thesis, I studied how and why speech-language pathologists chose to use music with children with ASD.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Joseph VanderZee**

Department of History
 Minors in Latin American studies and Education,
 Schooling, and Society
 Adviser: Sabine MacCormack

“The Blind Seeking the Invisible: Magic Realism and Diego Francisco Altamirano’s History of the Province of Peru”

I analyze a history written by a Spanish Jesuit missionary who died in Lima, Peru, in 1715. While miracles and interventions by the likes of Satan and the Virgin Mary in his narrative surprise the modern reader, their inclusion reveals the social and intellectual landscapes in which they took place. I traveled to Lima for a research and service project, and performed pre-modern historical research while there.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Veronica Vos

Department of Political Science
 Minor in peace studies
 Adviser: Emad Shahin

“Tribal Politics in Libya”

My thesis investigates the relationship between tribes in Libya and the Libyan state. By analyzing past tribal-state relations, my thesis proposes the possible role of tribalism in the future Libyan state after the regime transition has been completed. I am fascinated by non-state actors in international relations and the influence they can have on the world stage.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Trevor Waliszewski

Program of Liberal Studies
 Adviser: Julia Marvin

“What Dost Thou in This World?: Self-Examination in Milton’s Paradise Regained”

Careful analysis of *Paradise Regained* shows that Milton’s poetry not only contains the effects of prior self-examination but also is often the very medium through which his self-examination is performed. My thesis uses the self-examination of the Son in the wilderness as a model to uncover Milton’s own self-examination.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Andrew Webster

Department of Anthropology
 Double major in Italian
 Adviser: Mark Schurr

“Slicing Through Our Past: Knives and Other Flatware at the Collier Lodge Site”

Through stylistic analysis and comparison, as well as research of historical flatware available through publications and collections, I seek to use the flatware unearthed at Collier Lodge in Indiana to shed new light on the importance, origins, and use of flatware in a local and regional context, providing new insight into 19th century life in the rural Midwestern United States.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Mary Wheeler

Department of Psychology
 Supplementary major in preprofessional studies
 Adviser: Nicole McNeil

“The Relationship Between Generating Equivalent Math Facts and Children’s Conceptual Knowledge of Mathematical Equivalence”

Children in the United States have a poor understanding of the concept of mathematical equivalence—that both sides of the equal sign are interchangeable and represent the same value. My research hypothesizes that children who generate math facts based on equivalent sums will have a better understanding of mathematical equivalence.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Tessa White

Department of History
 Supplementary major in Spanish
 Minor in European studies
 Adviser: Lauren Faulkner

“Genocide and Modernity”

A common theory about the history and study of genocide is that it is inherently modern and was born in the 20th century with the culmination of certain modern factors. This theory associates genocide with a variety of qualities—most importantly racism, advanced technology, nationalism, popular participation, and a systematic bureaucracy. I argue that, although these factors do describe certain genocides, not all take place in the 20th century.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Sarah Wiesen

Department of Psychology
 Adviser: Jill Lany

“Can Two-Year-Olds Use Native Language Statistical Cues to Learn Novel Words?”

My senior thesis project explores two-year-olds’ ability to learn nouns and verbs. This study investigates why it is that young children have the remarkable ability to pick up language with such ease and how this ability flourishes in the latter part of the second year when their vocabularies begin to expand rapidly.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Brenna Claire Williams

Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
(television)

Adviser: Christine Becker

“This Is What Americans Actually Believe: South Park and the American Religious Minority”

My thesis explores the way the satirical television show *South Park* engages, critiques, and presents the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Church of Scientology, Judaism, and Islam. I wanted to see what messages a popular, long-lasting and, most importantly, satirical work communicated about religious beliefs and institutions not adhered to by a majority of the American public.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Caitlin Wilson

Department of English
Double major in anthropology

Adviser: Sara Maurer

“Ethnography in Victorian Children’s Literature”

I argue that the works of Lewis Carroll, Charles Kingsley, and George MacDonald were influenced by contemporary ethnographic portrayals of foreign cultural systems. After establishing these authors’ fictional cultures as legitimate, I then claim that the authors take up contemporary issues and interrogate them.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Melissa Wrapp

Department of Anthropology
 Supplementary major in peace studies
 Minor in international business
 Adviser: Catherin Bolten

“Left Empty: Subjective Morality and Squatting in London”

In summer 2011, I conducted ethnographic fieldwork in London on the squatting community in light of threatened criminalization and austerity measures. This fieldwork is the basis of my thesis, which interrogates the moral framework that informs squatters’ negotiation of the housing market and explores the community’s effort at collective political mobilization and resistance.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

Carole Wurzelbacher

Department of English
 Adviser: Elliot Visconsi

“Politicizing Ophelia: Hamlet and the Female Identity in Al-Bassam’s The Al-Hamlet Summit”

In Al-Bassam’s commentary on the relationship between the United States and Middle East, Ophelia emerges as a microcosm for Al-Bassam’s conception of a Middle East unable to define itself amidst cultural and political turmoil. Ophelia, likewise, represents the struggles women endure in a culture where they’re deprived of essential rights. I look at how this conflict resolves and the significance of Al-Bassam’s work in light of the Arab Spring.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Hanna Yang**

Department of English
 Minor in Japanese
 Adviser: Yasmin Solomonescu

“Samuel Coleridge: Sympathy and Imagination”

I explore the transformation of the role of sympathy and imagination in a series of poems that span the turbulent years of Samuel Coleridge’s life. Coleridge first caught my attention above all other Romantic poets because of his in-depth struggle with concepts of religion and imagination, two concepts with which I often struggle.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects

**Yo Tam Yoon**

Department of Sociology
 Double major in marketing
 Adviser: Omar Lizardo

“Suicide in the Land of the Morning Calm”

I infuse Émile Durkheim’s theory of anomic suicide into happenings in modern Korea in an attempt to explain that the high surges of suicides there are due to anomie. I am interested in sociological classical theories and found they can be applied to modern-day cases. As such, I noticed that Korea had the highest suicide rate of any industrialized nation and decided to use classical theory to reach an explanation.

College of Arts and Letters — 2012 Senior Thesis Projects



Laura Yoviene

Department of Psychology
Adviser: E. Mark Cummings

“Marital Conflict and Autonomy: The Moderating Effect of Intervention on Emotional Security”

I explore the role of marital conflict on the autonomous behaviors of adolescents. Through the use of triadic conflict interactions, I investigated the specific behaviors of parental relatedness and autonomy inhibition as potential mediating factors on the development of autonomy. I tested emotional security as a possible outcome variable of autonomy through the use of self-report questionnaires.