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To cap their undergraduate studies, students in the College of Arts and Letters are challenged to undertake a senior thesis project, working one-on-one with a faculty mentor on a yearlong project of their own devising.

Building on classroom work and study abroad experiences, the possibilities range from original research and analysis to creative pieces and performances.

Here is a small sampling of projects from 2011.

ROBYN GRANT
Major in history, minor in gender studies
Advisor: Jaime Pensado

Daniel Jacobs
“Picking Sensory Gloves to Promote Positive Social Behavior in Children With Autism”
Major in English, minor in Italian
Advisor: Anti-Marie Conrado

Bianca Fernandez
“The Effects of Irish Islander Place-Based Identity”
Major in anthropology, minor in Italian
Advisor: Deborah Rotman

Andrew Shaffer
“The Staircase Falls: Power, Politics, and Purges in Postwar Germany and Iraq”
Major in political science and in computer applications
Advisor: Michael Desch

DENNIS CROWLEY
“Self-Actualization and Its Challenges in Little Dorrit”
Major in English, minor in Italian
Advisor: Chris Verdien Boeche

Puja Parikh
“The American Medical Association Abroad”
Major in political science and in psychology
Advisor: Lucrècia Garcia lommi

Sam Werner
“American Sports Media in the Internet Era”
Major in American studies; minor in journalism, ethics, and democracy
Advisor: Robert Schühli

Elizabeth Koerbel
“A Comparison Analysis of Total Factor Productivity Growth in Hong Kong and Shanghai”
Major in economics and in Chinese
Advisor: Eric Sims

“I researched the connection between the Shanghai and Hong Kong economies; how growth in one has benefited or harmed the other. I studied in Shanghai the spring semester of junior year, and the incredible levels of change occurring in the city. It was a great way to apply my economic knowledge to an empirical case—and satisfied my undergraduate education.”