

**PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES**



**SENIOR CAPSTONE
PRESENTATIONS**

SPRING ACADEMIC FESTIVAL

MAY 2015

Please Join Us



As the culmination of their academic majors,
Pacific Lutheran University seniors present to
an open audience the fruits of a substantial
project, paper, or internship.

The students and faculty of the Division of
Humanities warmly invite all students, faculty,
and the public to attend.







LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Chinese Studies

In this course students develop their discipline-specific projects within the broader field of Chinese Studies. As they pursue their research, capstone students provide frequent progress reports to classmates and faculty, culminating in final project presentations at the end of the term.



Paul Manfredi



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Chinese Studies
Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Hong Hall, Main Lounge

4:00 PM Sonja Schaefer

“Monetary Change for Banking in
China & Why It Might Fail”

4:30 PM Angie Tinker

“We Must Also Have A Cultural Army:
Grooming Communist Citizenship in
Children’s Literature”

5:00 PM Austin Ballard

Contemporary China: The Search for
Energy Independence in Africa



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Chinese Studies
Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Hong Hall, Main Lounge

5:45 PM Shan Lei

Comparing and contrasting The concept of Tian in Lao zi, Zhuang zi and Confucius.

6:15 PM Lian Pauly

“Doing Business in a Changing Chinese Environment: An Analysis of Four Essential Business Elements for Western MNOs”





LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

FRENCH, SCANDINAVIAN AREA STUDIES, CHINESE STUDIES AND CLASSICS

This capstone seminar focused on contemporary, peer-reviewed articles and their literary and theoretical sources or influences. Rather than asking *What is theory?*, we asked *How do scholars engage theory in order to perform analyses of cultural artifacts, and why?* The goal of this approach was to discourage a preemptive application of ideas. By this means, each student's chosen artifacts for analysis became more than a mere illustration; they became an *invitation* to theory, the means for talking back, exploring, and struggling with categories for making, knowing, and representing our worlds.



Olivia Gunn



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Languages and Literatures
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Anderson University Center 213

FRENCH

9:00 AM **Kyle Schroeder**

Lettres persanes: a case of proto-
feminism or colonial feminism?

9:30 AM **Bonnie Griffith**

Shock, Subversion, and the Belgian
Congo: Jef Geeraerts as a Queer
Colonial Anti-Hero?



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Languages and Literatures
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Anderson University Center Room 213

SCANDINAVIAN AREA STUDIES

10:00 AM Kindra Galan

Nature and Ethnicity:
Understanding *friluftsliv* and
Scandinavian national identity in the
context of immigrant assimilation

10:30 AM Jonathan Dennie

Figures of Birth, Death, and the
Generations as Responses to Nordic
Whaling Traditions



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Languages and Literatures
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Anderson University Center Room 213

CHINESE STUDIES

2:30 PM

Shaina Cadiz

Caricature and Satire in a Chinese
Context: Political Defiance in the Gao
Brothers' *Miss Mao*

CLASSICS

3:45 PM

Amy Scott

Self-defeating Selfishness: Euripides
Alcestis through the eyes of Simone de
Beauvoir's *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

4:15 PM

Christine Johnson

"Tradition, Nature, and Custom: Ana-
lyzing Euripides' *The Bacchae* as a re-
sponse to the Sophist Movement"



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

HISPANIC STUDIES

HISP 499 is the culminating course for the
Hispanic Studies major.

In this course, students develop and write a substantial, original research project, in accordance with their own interests in the Spanish speaking world, and in dialogue with some of the critics who have shaped how literature, film and culture are studied in universities today.



Emily Davidson



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Hispanic Studies
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Hauge Administration, Room 101

4:00 PM

Morgan Stewart

Jerarquías en las favelas: estructuras de poder y violencia en *Ciudad de Dios*/[Favela Hierarchies: Structures of Power and Violence in *Ciudad de Dios*]

4:20 PM

Jenn Dooley

La teología de la liberación y la resistencia femenina en *Un día de la vida* de Manlio Argueta/[Liberation Theology and Feminine Resistance in Manlio Argueta's *Un día en la vida*]



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Seminar in Hispanic Studies
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Hauge Administration, Room 101

4:40 PM Amanda Lutsock

Debating Dominicaness: la identidad dominicana y las políticas de raza y género en *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*/[Debating Dominicaness: Dominican Identity and the Politics of Race and Gender in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*]

5:10 PM Cheryl Holsworth

La memoria como una voz en la literatura de exilio: *The Invisible Mountain* de Carolina De Robertis/[Memory as Voice in Exile Literature: *The Invisible Mountain* by Carolina De Robertis]



LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**Seminar in Hispanic Studies
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Hauge Administration, Room 101**

5:30 PM Erika Fischer

Un retrato roto: la desconstrucción de la perfecta familia franquista en *El laberinto del fauno*/[A Broken Portrait: The Deconstruction of the Perfect Francoist Family in *Pan's Labyrinth*]

5:50 PM Olivia Ash

El realismo mágico y la idea de Latino América /[Magical Realism and the Idea of Latin America]

6:10 PM Q&A



ENGLISH

POETRY

For many, poetry is often thought of as an art that begins and ends with the poet's feelings. However, even one hour in a beginning poetry class will undermine that assumption. Poetry, the beginning student immediately learns, is an art full of rigor--formally speaking, thematically speaking, intellectually speaking. In short, poetry is profoundly complex, and a student's study of poetry is as much an inquiry into the complexities of the art as it is an inquiry into the student's mind and heart.

The poetry capstone is a culmination of a student's work in reading and writing poetry. Each week this semester, students wrote poems that engaged with various elements of form and theme. The students also carefully investigated the workings of subject matter and craft in poets as far-ranging in history and style as Louise Gluck, Seamus Heaney, Julia Alvarez, Claudia Rankine, Lucille Clifton, Lois-Ann Yamanaka, Natasha Trethewey, Yusef Komunyakaa, and Emily Dickinson



Rick Barot



ENGLISH

Seminar in Poetry
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Anderson University Center 201

5:30 PM Phyllis Holland

71st & Halsted

6:15 PM Jakob Maier

Screaming Seahorse



ENGLISH

FICTION WRITING

Stories shape our world, and we come to know the world through stories. They are how we come to understand and connect with other people and cultures, often those we might otherwise never know. Stories transform us. The central objectives in this seminar are for students to become better storytellers and to create meaningful literature. To accomplish this, they have built upon skills and principles gained from previous literature and writing courses – working with imagery, exploring place, and examining the particularities of people, including their use of language and what shapes their ideologies – to create what Virginia Woolf called “moments of being” in characters’ lives. Over this semester, students have considered multiple texts on craft, produced a writer’s manifesto, presented on ways that authors use technique and critical frameworks to explore social issues, and wrote two new stories, all with the hope of producing fiction that reveals deeper insights into the human condition.



Jason Skipper



ENGLISH

Seminar in Fiction Writing
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Anderson University Center 133

5:30 PM **Blake Petersen**
"The Other Woman"

6:15 PM **David Erickson**
"The Right Time"

7:00 PM **Marissa Rivera**
"The Shopping Cart"

7:45 PM **Bruno Correa**
"Borderless"

8:30 PM **Anna Sieber**
"Swimming with Legends"



ENGLISH

**Seminar in Fiction Writing
Friday, May 15, 2015
Anderson University Center 133**

11:00 AM Alia Harding

“The Bird”

11:45 AM Graeson Sailor

"Vodka Martinis"

12:30 PM Cameron Kobes

“Coyote on the Mountain”

1:15 PM Martha Meyer

“To Be a Star”



ENGLISH

**Seminar in Fiction Writing
Friday, May 15, 2015
Anderson University Center 133**

2:00 PM Zachariah Phelps

"Thirst"

2:45 PM Malena Goerl

"The Lost Sister"

3:30 PM Meg Dolde

"Menstrala"



ENGLISH

LITERATURE

This literature seminar, *Rememory/Postmemory: Contemporary American Narratives of Slavery and the Holocaust*, considered how American writers have grappled with the legacies of slavery and the Holocaust. We read theory about trauma, memory, and repair as we explored American post-slavery narratives like Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, and Saidiya Hartman's hybrid memoir/history project *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*. W.E.B. DuBois's ruminations on the Holocaust during a 1949 trip to Warsaw served as our hinge text; we used what theorist Michael Rothberg calls "multidirectional memory" to think across the experiences of African Americans to those of Jews during the Holocaust. Our unit on post-Holocaust texts began with Ruth Kluger's difficult memoir, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered*. From there we turned to Art Spiegelman's graphic Holocaust memoir/biography *Maus*, and we concluded with thinking about the afterlife of Anne Frank in texts such as Philip Roth's *The Ghost Writer* and Nathan Englander's *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*.



Lisa Marcus



ENGLISH

Seminar in Literature
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Anderson University Center 201

7:00 PM

Stephanie Mock

"Come, Go Back, Child": Mothers,
Children, and Transgenerational
Trauma

7:45 PM

Erik Wolf

"Mauschwitz" and Haints in the House:
Using the Fantastic to Speak the
Unspeakable

8:30 PM

Brittany Jackson

Beloved and the Afterlife of Slavery



ENGLISH

Seminar in Literature
Friday, May 15, 2015
Anderson University Center 201

12:30 PM **Katrina Graven**

Life After Trauma: Screen Memory in
Beloved and *Maus*

1:15 PM **Vanessa Leiva**

Memorializing Slavery as a Nation:
Prosthetic Memory in *Kindred* and
Lose Your Mother

2:00 PM **Emma Reinhart**

Raising the Dead: Fictionalizing
Trauma in *Beloved*, *Lose Your Mother*,
and *Maus*

2:45 PM **Nathan Schoen**

Anne Frank's Ghost and The Angel of
History





RELIGION

Scholarly work is conducted within a community. Scholars share their early ideas with friends and colleagues, their drafts with anonymous reviewers, and present their findings to their professional guilds. In the Religion Department, the capstone process models work within a scholarly community.

The work begins in the Fall of senior year, when students take a class on research in Religion to learn a wide range of methods, read classics in the study of religion, and write a literature review on a topic of their own choosing. In the Spring capstone course, students delve deeper into that topic, creating their own original work, editing and reviewing one another's drafts, writing a polished piece of scholarship and making a formal public presentation.

The study of religion at PLU is widely diverse, ranging from Biblical to Buddhist research, from ancient history to contemporary theology. The work of the capstone honors this diversity, as each student develops a unique project, but also creates a community in which they can support, challenge, and learn from one another.



Douglas Oakman & Erik Hammerstrom



RELIGION

Seminar in Religion
Monday, May 18, 2015
Anderson University Center 133

10:30 AM Laree Winer

Gender, Power, and Prophecy in
1 Cor 14:33b-36

11:00 AM Erika Tobin

Sacrificial Atonement or Covenantal
Community? Understanding Paul's
Theology Surrounding Jesus' Death

11:30 AM Sarah Smith

Joseph and Aseneth: Redefining
Jewish Identity Through Conversion
and Rebirth



RELIGION

Seminar in Religion
Monday, May 18, 2015
Anderson University Center 133

12:30 PM Andrew Allen

Seeking Economic Justice Through
American Congregations: An
Analysis of the Influence and
Promise of the ELCA Social
Statement on Economic Life

1:00 PM Louise Buckles

The Gospel of John's Community:
A Group of Outsiders

1:30 PM Hannah Anderson

Lutheran Responses to Injustice:
A New Theology to Combat
Gender-based Violence in
Southern Africa



RELIGION

Seminar in Religion
Monday, May 18, 2015
Anderson University Center Room 133

2:30 PM

Savannah Phelan

Building Bridges Through Ritual: Creating Space for Native Christian Identity within the Sweat Lodge

3:00 PM

Andrew Larsen

"You Must Forgive Him or Die":
The Power of Forgiveness in the
Development of Northern Irish Identity

3:30 PM

Shaun Spurlock

Jesus the Existentialist



RELIGION

Seminar in Religion
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Anderson University Center 133

10:30 AM Ruthie Kovanen

A Sin to Be a Self?: Feminism, Selfhood,
and Reimagining *Kenosis* for an
Empowered Future

11:00 AM Nicole Plastino

"There is No God Where I Am": Thelema
as a Case Study for Legitimizing Esoteric
American Religiosity

11:30 AM Asia B. Wolfe

The Cult of Isis and the Status of Women
in the Ancient World

12:30 PM Christina Erikson

Journey Through the Veil:
Exploring Issues Surrounding Muslim
American Women



RELIGION

Seminar in Religion
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Anderson University Center 133

1:00 PM

Terrell Hawkins

The Sacrifice of Meat for the Sacrifice
of Christ: Understanding Christian
Community Principles

1:30 PM

Jacob Brock

Subduing the Earth Responsibly: Giving
“Priority of Labor over Capital” in
Laborem Exercens' Environmental
Consideration

2:30 PM

Ashley Piehl

Religiously Whaling: The Ritual,
Tradition, and Identity of the Makah



RELIGION

Seminar in Religion
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Anderson University Center 133

3:00 PM Andrew Morris

Primitive Christian Morals: Diverse Amish
Perspectives on Religious Ethics

3:30 PM Connor Rowell

The Asymptotic Theology of Israel:
Near Approaches to Monotheism in
Israelite Thought





PHILOSOPHY

Technology, Heidegger once wrote, is commonly conceived as an *instrumentum* or means, which human beings use to pursue their various ends. In this year's capstone, we interrogated this idea in order to determine whether technology is merely a means or whether it plays a role in shaping both human beings and their ends. We explored such questions as: Has modern technology fundamentally altered the ways we understand and relate to ourselves, the world, and others? Has modern technology fundamentally altered the kinds of projects we pursue? If so, has it altered them for good or ill? And, in light of these questions, what responsibilities do we have, both individually and collectively, with respect to modern technology?



Michael Schleeter



PHILOSOPHY

**Seminar in Philosophy
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Garfield Book Company
Community Room**

12:00 PM Olivia Killingsworth

"The Technology of Globalization and
Oppression: A Care Ethics Approach"

12:30 PM Joe Norton

"Poetry: A Response to Modern
Technology"

1:00 PM Stu Weaverling

"How Does Technology Encourage
Evil?"



PHILOSOPHY

Seminar in Philosophy
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Garfield Book Company
Community Room

1:30 PM

Christopher Johnson

"Cyberbullying: How Technology
Altered Communication"

2:00 PM

McKenzie Williams

"Complexity in the American Food
System: A Relativist Response to Martin
Heidegger"

2:30 pm

Matthew Ambrosecchio

"Mario the New Mona Lisa: A
Philosophical Investigation of
Videogames as Art"



PHILOSOPHY

Seminar in Philosophy
Thursday, May 21, 2015
Garfield Book Company
Community Room

2:00 PM

Kelli Blechschmidt

"Releasing the Chains of Labor Pains: A
Beauvoirian Technological Analysis"

2:30 PM

Jakob Maier

"Are There Aesthetics in the
Technological Embrace?: On Whether
Computers Can
Create Poetry and Art"

3:00 PM

Branden Ginther

"Group-Link: How Morals Could Work
with Artificial Intelligence"



PHILOSOPHY

**Seminar in Philosophy
Thursday, May 21, 2015
Garfield Book Company
Community Room**

3:30 PM

Lewis Hitchiner

"A Facebook Status: What's
on Your Mind?"

4:00 PM

Robert Shaw

"Passing the Turing Test:
Machines, Minds, and Inquiry"

4:30 PM

Terrell Hawkins

"The Search for Sophrosyne:
Obtaining Moderation in an
Age of Technological Excess"



Humanities Capstones Spring 2015



Pacific Lutheran University

Division of Humanities

Tacoma, WA 98447

www.plu.edu/humanities

The Division of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University

is comprised of the Departments of

English (including Children's Literature and Culture, and
Publishing and Printing Arts),

Languages and Literatures (including Chinese, Classics, French,
German, Hispanic Studies, and Norwegian),

Philosophy, and Religion,

and is also affiliated with these programs:

Chinese Studies, Environmental Studies, Global Studies,
International Honors, Scandinavian Area Studies, and

Women's and Gender Studies.