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.
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.
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
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
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.
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
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
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
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]
4:40 PM  Amanda Lutsock  
Debating Dominicanness: la identidad dominicana y las políticas de raza y género en *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*  
[Debating Dominicanness: 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]
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
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.
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
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.
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”
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”
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”
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*.
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
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
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.
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
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
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
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
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
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
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?
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?"
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Christopher Johnson</td>
<td>&quot;Cyberbullying: How Technology Altered Communication&quot;</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>McKenzie Williams</td>
<td>&quot;Complexity in the American Food System: A Relativist Response to Martin Heidegger&quot;</td>
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<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Matthew Ambrosecchio</td>
<td>&quot;Mario the New Mona Lisa: A Philosophical Investigation of Videogames as Art&quot;</td>
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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"
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"
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.