

2021

LCSC Humanities Division Research Symposium

SENIOR PROJECTS ABSTRACTS FOR ENGLISH AND THEATRE

LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE

Lewis-Clark State College - Research Symposium 2021

Senior Projects in English & Theater

Friday, April 16

Group One (1:00 - 2:15 pm)

Depictions of Heroism, Sam Armstrong

For my senior research I have engaged in a discussion of heroism and how its attributes vary dependent on the time and culture of the people that the hero is from. In particular I have taken one of the most famous classical heroes, the 8th century Anglo-Saxon prince Beowulf, and contrasted him and his culture with the modern heroes of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, namely the hobbits Frodo and Sam. Both texts are English in origin, but from very different time periods and as such the evolution of heroic values can be seen, both in how they have stayed the same, and how they have differed.

Coyote as Trickster in Nez Perce Oral Stories, Austin Landkammer

Nez Perce stories about Coyote illustrate the role of the trickster in Native American storytelling. I will discuss the story "Bears and Coyote," and will describe what Coyote's mindset and values are like in the story. There will also be a discussion of the story "Heart of the Monster," as well as how Coyote is treated in the stories and the question of whether he's a hero or villain and why he's ambiguously positioned in various stories. Sources include Archie Phinney's Nez Perce stories and Melville Jacobs "Coyote and Badger Were Neighbours."

Amelia Earhart, Jessica Weller

On July 2nd, 1932 Amelia Earhart, a famous and world renowned female pilot, along with her navigator, Fred Noonan, went missing over the Pacific Ocean in her attempt to be the first woman to fly solo around the world. At the time of her disappearance, she was trying to find a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean called Howland Island and there she was going to refuel. When she went missing, the world mourned the loss of her because she was a strong woman and a role model for many. Details about Amelia Earhart, her life, and the final flight that ended in her disappearance will be discussed. In addition, details will be added about her life leading up to becoming a pilot, her accomplishments, her final flight in an attempt to circumnavigate the globe and address theories concerning her disappearance. Earhart left a lasting mark on the world fighting for equal rights for women, pushed the boundaries of what was thought to be possible, expected and allowed for women at the time and hopefully encouraged other women to do the same.

Group Two (2:30 – 3:45 pm)

Adventures in Stage Management: The Basics for High Schools & Small Theaters, Cedar Miller

For my senior project I wanted to create something that was more than just a research paper. I wanted this project to really show all that I have learned in college with my creative writing degree but also with my love for theater, stage management specifically. That is why I created a new stage management handbook. I wrote this to be used as a starting point for upcoming stage managers and provides other resources to look into once they become more comfortable with the role of stage manager. It gives examples from shows that I have been part of at LCSC.

Autobiography in U.S. Latino Literature, Danielle Mills

United States Latino literature often includes elements of autobiography whether through a character or specific experience within the literature. I analyzed two works: the poem “Autobrownography of a New England Latino” by José B. Gonzalez and the short story “Invierno” by Junot Díaz. It is in the autobiographical aspects of these pieces of Latino literature that can bring an understanding of the modern Latino experience and celebrate the uniqueness of biculturalism within the borders of the United States.

Dualism in Latin American Literature: A Comparison of Julia de Burgos and Jorge Luis Borges, Bailey Pointer

Julia de Burgos and Jorge Luis Borges both use dualism in their works “A Julia de Burgos” and “Borges and I”. Yet what is Dualism? To me, dualism is a look at one’s true self compared to the self we normally portray when we are in mixed company. It is the two different parts we choose to be. At work you act differently than when you are out with your friends. This is a modern form of dualism that is used today. Yet dualism can mean something different for everyone because it is not limited to just one thing.

***Music as a Creative Writing Enhancer, Andy Kirkham* (Summer presentation, TBA)**

Music has been shown to enhance the creative writing process, something studied in a quantitative and qualitative manner. Such evidence is found in both professional research projects as well as informal data collection through simple community interview. Whether for themselves or in a group setting, individuals can apply music to creative writing in a variety of ways, such as deliberate exercises, simple experimentation of preference and overall usefulness, and having increased awareness of its presence to maximize efficiency (e.g. as potential distraction reducer or mood booster). While this project focuses on poetry and fiction, the concept can also be applied to nonfiction writing.

Sexual Violence and the Dark Mother: Finding Strength in Stories of Pain, Rosellyn Lindert

This work examines the mythologies of motherhood from several cultures around the world, including the myth of Medusa from ancient Greece, the myth of Hine-tītama from the Māori people, the Andean myth of Caui Llaca, and the mythologized historical Aztec woman Doña Marina, or La Malinche. On examining these myths, a clear pattern emerges of sexual misconduct directed toward mythical mother figures, which affects women from many different cultures. It is imperative that these problems within the myths we tell are acknowledged in modern retellings, with the intention to find empowerment within the preservation of archetypal narratives and cultural stories.

Group Three (4:00 - 5:15 pm)

In the Mind of Madness: Racism & Social Anxiety in the Works of H.P. Lovecraft, Blaze Dugger

The purpose of this project was to examine the role of racism in works of H.P. Lovecraft in the context of the time period he was writing in as well as the context of his upbringing and social life as an upper class youth but lower class adult. The goal from there was to place this within the continuum of horror and weird fiction by contrasting it to modern works both inspired by and critical of his work, such as Matt Ruff's novel *Lovecraft Country*. With this placement, I aim to better justify Lovecraft's influence on popular culture.

We're All Queer Here: Aestheticism, Decadence, and Monstrosity in Late Victorian Society, Joshua Rodgers

This project explores the influence of the Aesthetic and Decadent Movements on Queer literature in late nineteenth century Victorian society. These ideas shaped the foundation for queer writers to create literature that expressed inner feelings and desires with the pursuit of beauty and pleasure rather than explore the societal ideas. Authors Oscar Wilde and Robert Louis Stevenson were able to use literature to explore desires and thoughts society had otherwise categorized as monstrous. Placing emphasis on these movements allowed writers and authors of this time period to begin developing subcultures of homosexual literature that we still see today.

The Sublime and the Beautiful: Manifestations of Romantic Era Anxieties about Women Delaney Gorton

Through 18th century British Romantic's aesthetic concepts of the sublime and the beautiful merging in the era's literature about women, cultural anxieties about women with personal agency are revealed. Texts such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther* demonstrate this; the story's principal woman, Charlotte, has qualities of the sublime

and the beautiful ascribed to her, which results in her having the will to resist patriarchal desires of ownership over women, as symbolized through Young Werther himself.

The Lady is a Vamp: Victorian Vampire Literature and the New Woman, Emma Schneider

The Victorian Era saw vast changes in societal expectations for men and women – particularly in terms of the emerging “New Woman” and “New Man”. The era, as well, held a fascination with the gothic things in life – and death. Vampire literature became the way to bleed out all of these Victorian readers’ hopes and anxieties of the future. Books, such as Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu’s 1872 novel *Carmilla* and Bram Stoker’s iconic 1897 novel *Dracula*, feature characters pushing the Victorian boundaries of gender. Darkly representative of a transformation in society, are these children of the night – for, oh, what music they make.