

GENERAL EDUCATION

Engage, Educate, Enlighten



Seventeenth Annual Student Conference

October 8, 2021

2:30 p.m.-5:05 p.m.

James Madison University

Rose Library

Festival Student & Conference Center

Schedule of Events

1:30-5:00.....Registration, Lobby, Festival Center

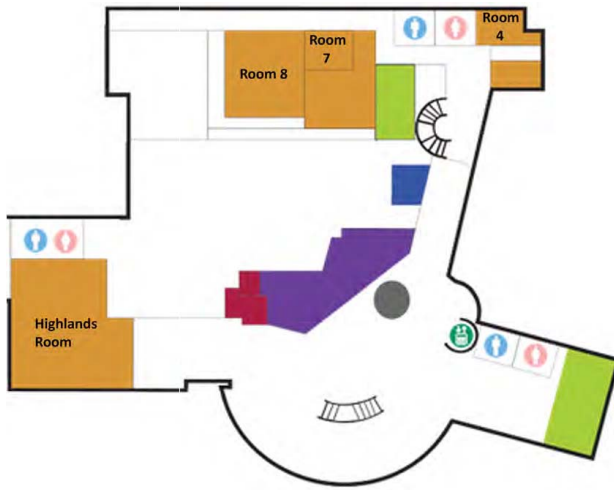
2:30-3:15.....Presentations – Session 1

3:25-4:10.....Presentations – Session 2

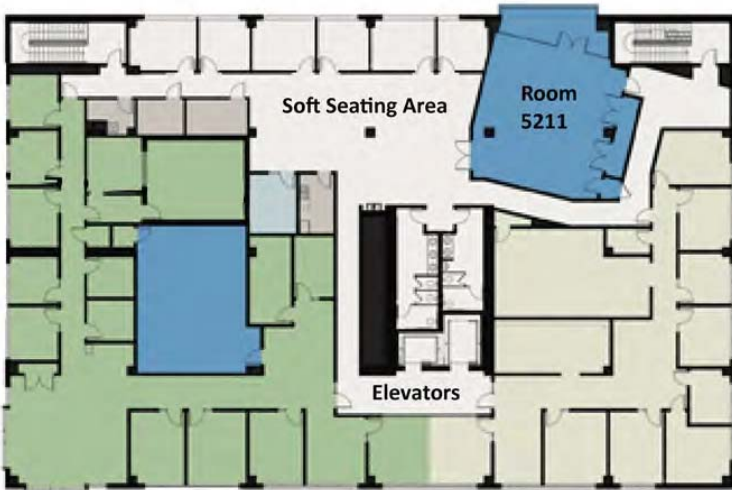
4:20-5:05.....Presentations – Session 3



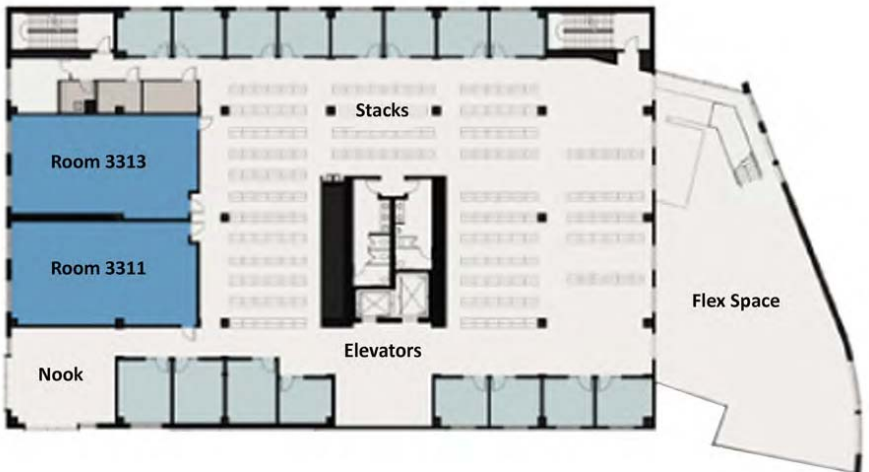
Festival Upper Level



Festival Lower Level



Rose Library Fifth Floor



Rose Library Third Floor

Presentations – Session 1 2:30-3:15

Religion, Marginalization, and Empowerment: Case Studies from Around the World

Moderator, Frances Flannery

3rd Floor Nook, Rose Library

Students in REL 101 wrote papers exploring a contemporary religious issue of their choosing by focusing on three dimensions of religion, using Ninian Smart's framework for defining religion.

Gia Yoder	"The Impact of Black Megachurches"
Piper Brown	"The Bundu dia Kongo and the Democratic Republic of Congo"
Samantha Jackson	"Religious Importance of Native Hawaiian Protests at Mauna Kea"

What Skills Did I Learn in Online Classes that Would be Helpful in Classes Today?

Moderator, David Daniel

3rd Floor Flex Space, Rose Library

Dorian Clark	
Rachel Fini	
Charles Conner	“What Skills Did I learn in Online Classes that Would be
Peter Korenko	Helpful in Classes Today?”
Mariah Oddiah	
Emily Webb	

Methods of Rule in British Colonial Nigeria: Analyzing Chinua Achebe's Memories of his Colonial-Era Childhood

Moderator, Christian Davis

Room 3311, Rose Library

This HIST 102 class wrote papers analyzing British rule in colonial Nigeria through the eyes of the novelist Chinua Achebe, who recounted his childhood experiences in a 1993 speech titled “The Education of a British-Protected Child.”

Jenna Reilly	“Methods of Rule in British Colonial Nigeria: Analysis 1”
Molly Kurst	“Methods of Rule in British Colonial Nigeria: Analysis 2”
Ryan Santa Maria	“Methods of Rule in British Colonial Nigeria: Analysis 3”

Power and Resistance in U.S. History

Moderator, Emily Westkaemper

Room 3313, Rose Library

Students in this HIST 225 course wrote original analyses of historical documents, providing important insight into the complex roles of power and resistance that helps us reexamine crucial events of early U.S. history.

Jack Dempsey	“The Misconception of ‘Free Land’ and How it Changed America”
Alex Pearson	“The Pen is Mightier than the Rebellion: A Look at Antifederalist Writings”
Shelby Staib	“The Federalists’ Support for a Representative Republic”

Presentations – Session 1 2:30-3:15

Aspects of Greek Art and Reflections on Homeric Literature

Moderator, Michael Allain

Room 5211, Rose Library

Students of HUM 250 wrote papers on Greek culture, focusing either on art and archaeology or literature.

Allie Gause “The Francoise Vase”
Katie Hayes “Sacrificial Connections in the *Iliad*”

Research Papers on Oral History and Social Change

Moderator, Kristen McCleary

BOV Dining Room, Festival Center

Students in HIST 150H will present their work exploring the intersection of personal narratives and social change by presenting either an oral history that they conducted, an analysis of oral histories, or their exploration of how their own lives have intersected with social change

Mya Wilcox “How do the Oral History Interviews on the Course Website Help to Create a Broader Understanding of Nonviolent Protest Movements for Racial and Social Justice (Specifically the Civil Rights Movement?)”
Sky Hawkes “How has Women’s Ability to Lead in the United States Workplace Evolved over the Previous Century?”
Carter Payne “How is the COVID-19 Pandemic Impacting Teachers, Students, and Their Learning?”
Mya Gonzales “How has Entering the Workplace Impacted Women’s Gender Roles over the Past Century in the U.S., and What Obstacles do They Uniquely Face Regarding Work?”

Trending Topics in Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Moderator, Jessica Davidson

Room 2, Festival Center

Students in this WGSS200 class worked in groups to educate on and highlight important niches within Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality. They then presented their research and analysis, including the history of the topic and the most important related debates, through a dynamic slide presentation with recorded voice over.

Baily Brown and “Female Heads of State”
Allie Shearer
Fiona Hefele and
Aaliyah Gibbons “Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the Military”
Colleen Riley
Hannah Mills

Reforming the Police

Moderator, Lori Britt

Room 3, Festival Center

This group of SCOM 123H students developed over the course of the semester an informative and persuasive presentation in response to the public problem of police brutality and racial discrimination. In their persuasive speech, this group works to identify macro and micro solutions that can aid in reforming our police force to meet this moment in our nation’s history.

Jordan Davis
Laney Snodgrass “The Effect of Police Reform on Racial Equality”
Liam Payne

Presentations – Session 1 2:30-3:15

The TDir of Cultural Anthropology, as Presented in UnEssays

Moderators, Becca Howes-Mischel and Megan Tracy

Alleghany Room, Festival Center

These ANTH 195 classes produced group 'UnEssays' to illustrate and explain the fundamentals of cultural anthropology by developing projects in creative and different media.

Mia Boswell and

Matthew Meisner

Eli Mulligan

Chloe Harper and

Ashley Creekmore

Elizabeth Golightly

“Using Passports to Explain the TL:DR of
Cultural Anthropology

“Culture: The Game”

Andalusian Literature that Lit a Dark Age

Moderator, Samuel Hernandez

Room 7, Festival Center

Students in HUM 200 wrote essays on literature written in al-Andalus, one of the most complexed and diverse regions that ever existed.

Veronica Giron

“A Reflection of Emotion”

Lilly Boswell

“Al Harizi's, Living Hebrew Maqamat”

Current Issues that Affect College Student Health and Wellness

Moderator, Debra Sutton

Highlands Room Festival Center

Students from HTH 100 (Personal Wellness) will discuss an issue of their choice intended to promote healthy practices among their peers.

William Scharnweber

“Dental Health Issues in College Students”

Dillon Corral

“The Importance of Music: Mind and Body”

Presentations – Session 2 3:25-4:10

Writing that ‘Spark’les

Moderator, Karen McDonnell

3rd Floor Nook, Rose Library

Writers in WRTC 103 used Adobe Spark to publish their final projects online.

Alexa Walsh	“Why Instacart is Beneficial during a Global Pandemic”
Maggie Rickerby	“A Change of Culture”
Riley Burcher	“Great Danes: The Gentle Giant”

Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Atlantic World

Moderator, Christian Davis

Room 3311, Rose Library

This HIST 102 class wrote papers analyzing primary source documents detailing cross-cultural encounters in the Atlantic World during the period of the Atlantic slave trade and twentieth-century European colonialism.

Ryan McGowan	“Tactics of European Colonial Rule in Africa”
John Archibald	“Chinua Achebe and European Rule”

Cross-Disciplinary Connections: Applying Concepts from Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Moderator, Emily Westkaemper

Room 3313, Rose Library

This WGSS 200 class wrote papers applying frameworks from the discipline of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to key issues in other academic disciplines.

Kate Weaver	“Analyzing Gender in Medicine”
Adia Williams-Leventhal	“Analyzing Gender in Scientific Scholarship”

Roman Art and Archaeology

Moderator, Michael Allain

Room 5211, Rose Library

Students in this HUM 250 class wrote papers on specific items of Roman art from archaeological sites.

Caroline Rice	“Alexander the Great and Darius III at Pompeii”
Tegan White	“Historical Responses to the Pantheon”
Samantha Forbes	“Role of the Vestal Virgins”
Brian Wachter	“The Pantheon in Rome”

Adobe Spark Projects on Oral History and Social Change

Moderator, Kristen McCleary

BOV Dining Room, Festival Center

Students in HIST 150H will present their work exploring the intersection of personal narratives and social change by presenting either an oral history that they conducted, an analysis of oral histories, or their exploration of how their own lives have intersected with social change, using Adobe Spark.

Anthony Lawson	“Social Media and Activism”
Joaquin Dela Cruz	“Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story: How Racism and COVID-19 Impacted My Life in the Theatre”
Kelly Riley	“Korean American: A Different Perspective”
Michael Russo	“Writing My Story”
Lexi Marty	“On Gun Violence and US Culture, Greensboro, NC”

Presentations – Session 2 3:25-4:10

Trending Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Moderator, *Jessica Davidson*

Room 2, Festival Center

Students in this WGSS 200 class worked in groups to educate on and highlight important niches within Women's, Gender, and Sexuality. They then presented their research and analysis, including the history of the topic and the most important related debates, through a dynamic slide presentation with recorded voice over.

Sarah Triola	"The Evolution of Prostitution and Sex Work"
Ashlyn Campbell and Niah Gray	"Black Lives Matter and the Movement for Social Justice"
Taylor Naufflett	
Rachel Nohe	

Using Personal Narratives in Persuasion about Acting on Public Issues

Moderator, *Lori Britt*

Room 3, Festival Center

Students from this SCOM 123H class will show short video messages, then conduct a panel discussion about the process of understanding how we can use our personal stories to shape persuasion that encourages others to join us in efforts to improve our communities and address issues.

Lexie Burns	"How I Came to Understand Prejudice and Why Representation in Media Matters"
Alexandra Davis	"When I First Identified My Privilege: Bringing Race into Conversation through Group Engagement"
Morgan Roy	"Saving the Planet: The Journey to Self-Realization"
Caroline Sampson	"My Journey to Opening Doors for Mental Health Awareness"
Cecilia Wood	"A Hopeful Chain of Events: Empowering Kids through Education"
De Juan Wood	"A Race against Time: A Black Boy's Plea on Restoring Justice for Black America"

Voices from the Past

Moderator, *Yongguang Hu*

Alleghany Room, Festival Center

Students in HIST 101 wrote papers examining primary documents from the pre-1500 era.

Ta'Mya Ross	"Procopius: <i>Secret History</i> "
Abby Morris	"Laozi: A Glimpse into Philosophy in Zhou China"
Vivien Trent	"Laozi and his <i>Daodejing</i> "

Thinking Critically about Advertising

Moderator, *Dolores Flamiano*

Room 4, Festival Center

This SMAD 150 class wrote papers that looked critically at print advertisements and online news stories, using the tools of media literacy.

Moriah McDonald	"Popchips, Puffery and Manipulation"
Ashley Muse	"'Made for You': American Eagle Outfitters and the Commodity Self"

Presentations – Session 2 3:25-4:10

Larger than Life: Rulers of the Ancient World

Moderator, Jeannie Harding

Room 7, Festival Center

These HIST 101 students researched the lives and legacies of two ancient rulers: Cleopatra and Qin Shi Huang.

Jack Morris “The Chinese Supernova: Qin Shi Huang and His Empire”
Serena Gilbert “Cleopatra in World History”

Debate over Annexing Overseas Territory in the Early 20th Century

Moderator, Skip Hyser

Highlands Room, Festival Center

Students in this HIST 225 class read arguments about imperialism and wrote a paper analyzing the various perspectives.

Rachel Raffino
Rachel Gordon “Debate over Annexing Overseas Territory”
Grace Harwell

Presentations – Session 3 4:20-5:05

Perspectives on COVID-19

Moderator, Danielle DeRise

3rd Floor Nook, Rose Library

This WRTC 103 class wrote persuasive papers using evidence from scholarly and reputable popular sources.

Hunter Grepiotis “The Long Haul of COVID-19”
Anne Katherine Andersen “Herd Immunity and COVID-19”
Brittany McCombs “Why Wear Masks?”
Zhuowei Yue “American Unemployment during Coronavirus”

The Deep Past Speaks: Analyzing Primary Sources in World History

Moderator, T.J. Fitzgerald

Room 3311, Rose Library

Students in this HIST 101 class worked in pairs to write analyses of primary sources of their own choosing.

Jack Barbour “Beowulf”
Ryan McGowan and
Bridget Patterson “Tao Te Ching”

Presentations – Session 3 4:20-5:05

Demons, Fairies, Hindu Goddesses, “Savages” and Fraktures: Art Outside the Western Canon

Moderator, Charles Maddox

Room 3313, Rose Library

Students in Mr. Maddox’s ARTH 206 and ARTH 206H analyzed and placed in meaning-defining cultural context works of art excluded from the canon of general art history.

Megan Cresci	“Analyzing Fantasy Art in the 19th and 20th Century”
Skyler Gray	“Hindu Goddesses”
Hannah Kibler	“The Trade and Artistry of Fraktures in the Shenandoah Valley”
Sophia Libonate	“The Origins of Fairies in Art: An Exploration of Folklore”
Elise Scheuring	“The Iconography of Demons in Japanese Art from the 17th Century to Today”

Roman Comedy

Moderator, Michael Allain

Room 5211, Rose Library

Students in this HUM 250 class wrote analyses of the comedies by Roman playwrights: Plautus and Terence

Cassy Scanlon	“Literary Analysis of Plautus' <i>Menaechmi</i> and Terrence's <i>Adelphoi</i> ”
Maddie Roever	“Significance of Slaves in Roman Comedy”
Alexa Paredes Idiaquez	“Plautus' <i>Menaechmi</i> and Terrence's <i>Adelphoi</i> ”

Día de los Muertos at JMU: Engaging in Community Dialogue, Increasing Awareness of Country-Specific Commemorations and Advocating for Cultural Appreciation of Day of the Dead in Virginia

Moderator, Kristen McCleary

BOV Dining Room, Festival Center

Students in HUM 252 will present on the meaning of Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos, and they will also highlight its geographic diversity through a discussion of where and how it is celebrated in the US and Latin America.

Veronica Lopez	“Día de los Muertos at JMU”
Katie Antonucci and Jana Donato	“Día de los Muertos at JMU”

Imagining the (Non-)Human: Humans, Animals, and Machines in Literary Fiction

Moderator, Holly Yanacek

Room 2, Festival Center

The presenters from this HUM 200 course wrote papers analyzing literary texts that focus on non-humans, including non-human animals and machines.

Rosalie Chesney	“Is Qualityland Within Reach? A Glimpse into Society’s New Innovative Frontier”
Sarah Triola	“The Complex Meaning of One Ugly Bug: An Analysis of Kafka’s <i>Metamorphosis</i> ”
Mathew Reid	“Automated Servitude”

Presentations – Session 3 4:20-5:05

Philosophy in Conversation

Moderator, *Michael Trocchia*

Room 3, Festival Center

These PHIL 101 students, respectively, created a duet, a podcast, and a video interview to further explore topics from the course.

Anna DeNoia	“Plato’s <i>Symposium</i> : A Duet”
Lily Perry	“Free Thinkers Club Podcast”
Kelsey McCann	“The Cave across Disciplines: Teaching Plato’s Allegory”

The Politics of Twentieth-Century Irish Literature

Moderator, *Sián White*

Alleghany Room, Festival Center

Students in this ENG 221H class studied and wrote papers about national and gender politics in Irish literature.

Caroline Rose	"Cathleen Ni Houlihan’s Shadow: Cultural Ideals and the Reality of Womanhood in Irish Literature"
Erin Meier	“What’s in a Name?: Ironic Naming in Roddy Doyle’s <i>A Star Called Henry</i> ”
Bella Dowdell	“Do your job. Translate!': Language and Power in Brian Friel’s <i>Translations</i> ”

Thinking Critically About Advertising

Moderator, *Dolores Flamiano*

Room 4, Festival Center

This SMAD 150 class wrote media analysis papers about print advertisements and an online 'news' article, in which they applied a set of critical tools from our Media Literacy textbook and other resources.

MacKenzie Graber	“Sexism and the Male Gaze in Victoria’s Secret Online Ads”
Maggie Rickerby	“‘Be Like Mike’: Analyzing a Classic Gatorade Ad”
Jessica Shamloo	“Snack Attack or Sneak Attack? Advertising Metamucil Fiber Thins”

Debate over Annexing Overseas Territory in the Early 20th Century

Moderator, *Skip Hyser*

Highlands Room, Festival Center

Students in this HIST 225 class read arguments about imperialism and wrote a paper analyzing the various perspectives.

Hill Yauger	“Debate over Annexing Overseas Territory”
Courtney Brown	
Skye Burden	
Ella Parse	

In memoriam...

It is with profound sorrow that the General Education Program and JMU lost a friend and colleague in January 2021.

Dr. Terry Beitzel was a champion of general, liberal, and higher education. His commitment to help our world create a global citizenry that strives to make the world, if not a better place, at least a more understandable one, was demonstrable.

All of us who knew Terry saw him often. On campus in the Gandhi Center, in class or on committees advancing truth and justice or doing the work of finding justice in the world, we saw his work and cared about him. We also saw him just drinking his coffee and walking around campus with his ancient satchel across his shoulder and a purpose to his stride.

Dr. Beitzel asked his students to understand, who are “we” as citizens responsible to – why, and if not, why not? It is our best hope that Dr. Beitzel’s students will advance those questions and perhaps seek and find answers.



Special thanks to:

JMU Libraries' Faculty and Staff

Tim Ball

Dennis Beck

Elizabeth Brown

Kathy Clarke

David Daniel

Danielle DeRise

Linda Cabe Halpern

Gretchen Hazard

Phil Heap

Skip Hyser

Kethera Fogler Moore

Meg Mulrooney

Jackie Robinson

Deb Sutton

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