

GENERAL EDUCATION

Engage, Educate, Enlighten



Sixteenth Annual Student Conference

October 2, 2020

James Madison University

Rose Library

Festival Student & Conference Center

Schedule of Events

After much consideration, the General Education Student Conference Committee decided to cancel the 2020 conference. We determined the conference could not be held in a safe environment for participants and audience members given the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is an honor to be nominated for the conference from among the thousands of students who take General Education courses each year, as the conference showcases the most outstanding student work in General Education courses. We regret nominated students were unable to share their work with an audience of professors, peers and family members.

To recognize those students who accepted a faculty member's nomination to participate in the conference, listed below are the panel sessions that were scheduled.

Nominations Accepted for the Conference

Examining Master Narratives with Early American Literature

Moderator, Molly O'Donnell

This ENG 247 class prepared writing assignments treating diverse literature from early America to contemplate and critique our country's master narratives.

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| Erica Kukanich | "The Problem with American Capitalism and Nostalgia in 'Bartleby the Scrivener'" |
| John McGrinder | "The Disparity between America's Founding Principles and Slavery" |
| Carter Anoush Stamm | "Vice and Virtue in the Love Poems of Anne Bradstreet and Edna St. Vincent Millay" |

Current Issues in Rhetorics and Feminisms

Moderator, Anna Maria Johnson

Several students from WRTC 103 chose to write researched argument papers about current complex issues relating to feminism and rhetorics.

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| Hannah Peluso | "Feminism: Are We in the Fourth Wave?" |
| Madeline Birchett | "Unpacking Toxic Masculinity" |
| Sydney Sawatsky | "The Reality Behind Beauty Pageants: Empowerment or Exploitation?" |
| Joy Toth | "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: Shedding Light on a Dark Topic" |

Unity and Disunity in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Society

Moderator, Emily Westkaemper

Students in this HIST 225 course wrote original analyses of historical documents about U.S. society in the nineteenth century, providing important insight into the roles of unity, disunity, inclusion, and exclusion in history.

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| Maggie Booth | "Using the Cult of Domesticity to Enact Change" |
| Sabrina Gerald | "The Argument for the Cult of Domesticity and Raising the Future of the Nation" |
| Leah Thomas | "The Cult of Domesticity and its Restrictions on Women" |
| Sophia Barrick | "The Effect of Religion and Morality on the Role of Women" |

Media Literacy: How to Critically Analyze Advertisements and Online News Stories

Moderator, Dolores Flamiano

This SMAD 150 Media Literacy class critically analyzed advertisements and online news articles. Students deconstructed ads and looked for evidence of deceptive techniques, as well as embedded social values. They analyzed a news article using the VIA model to determine if an article is verifiable, independent and accountable.

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| Alena Fagan | |
| Morgan McNutt | "Media Literacy" |
| Samantha Low | |
| Catherine Morrissey | |

Communicating Expert Opinion to the Public

Moderator, James Zimmerman

The students in these two sections of WRTC 103 identified an area of special interest early in the semester, eventually did a research paper on the topic, and, for the final assignment of the semester, wrote an op-ed based on the expertise they gained from their research.

Kristy Kocot	“The Connections that Sustain Sanity”
Sadie Renner	“This May Ruin Your Life”
Bridgette Carey	“Why Everyone Should Watch (or Join!) Theatre”

Climate Change Matters – Connecting Science to Society, I

Moderator, Kristen St. John

Students in GEOL 115 wrote editorials that incorporated scientific evidence on various aspects of climate change.

Riley Cook	“The Truth About Global Warming and Climate Change”
Sam Delapena	“Climate Editorial”
Kyle Wedemeyer	“Human Understanding of Climate”

Climate Change Matters – Connecting Science to Society, II

Moderator, Kristen St. John

Students in GEOL 115 wrote editorials that incorporated scientific evidence on various aspects of climate change.

Ella Bogren	“COVID-19 and Human Impact on Climate”
Teddy Levin	“Understanding is the Key to Saving Our Planet”
Anna Philmlee	“On the Topic of Geologic Time”

Global South Asian Topics, I

Moderator, Shah Mahmoud Hanifi

Students in HUM 252 Global South Asia engage this world region using long-term, culture-based approaches to environmental, language and migration history.

Jake Boggs	
Sarah Triola	
Kaitlyn Nelson	“Global South Asian Topics”
Cole Adams	
Julia Denton	

Global South Asian Topics, II

Moderator, Shah Mahmoud Hanifi

Students in HUM 252 Global South Asia engage this world region using long-term, culture-based approaches to environmental, language and migration history.

Grace Murphy	
Seanpaul Coffey	
Katie Sylvester	“Global South Asian Topics”
Tanner Katsarelis	
Evan Gareffa	

Making Connections and Exercising Visual Intelligence

Moderator, Charles E. Maddox

The panel of students in ARTH 205 wrote essays involving the exercising of visual intelligence in analysis and making connections between art history and other disciplines.

Christina Antonides	“Visual Snow and the Neuropsychological Model in Parietal Art”
Evan Gareffa	“The Politics of Contested Architecture”
Amber Padilla	“Analysis of Theotokos Tikvin, 1831 (A Work in JMU Lisanby Museum)”
Daniel Chwa	“Of Vice and Virtue: Classical Greece and the Timeless Battle with Morality”
Quintin Adkins and Mary T. Baez	“Shamanism in Central America through Art History and Cultural Anthropology”

Sources from the Past

Moderator, Yongguang Hu

This HIST 101 class wrote essays to examine evidence from primary sources prior to 1644.

Cassidy Sadonis	“The Story of Miss Li”
Hannah Partee	“The Twelve Tables: A View in the Life of the Romans”
Kaitlyn Hancock	“Hammurabi Code of Law”

Voices from the Past

Moderator, Yongguang Hu

This HIST 101 class wrote papers to examine precious primary documents produced before the sixteenth century.

Madison McTernan	“Images and Icons”
Sara Drozdowski	“The Guidonian Hand”
Brian Carroll	“Utopia”

Topics in Modern History

Moderator, Michael Seth

HIST 102 students did a research paper on a specific topic in modern world history using secondary sources and at least one primary source.

Mitch Mulvehill	“The Pan-African Congress”
Rachel Pack	“The Rise of Feminism”
Ned Muckerman	“Democratic Movements in Hong Kong”
Charlie Jones	“The Iranian Revolution”
Caitlyn Weeks	“The Kurdish Nationalist Movement”

Issues in Recent Global History

Moderator, Michael Seth

HIST 150 students selected an issue and did a research paper using secondary sources and at least one primary source.

Sara Baldwin	“Saving the Elephant”
Mason Dyer	“Immigration in the E.U.”
Juliette Fixsen	“Nuclear Proliferation”
Ciara Hagan	“The Impact of China’s One-Child Policy”

Tyranny

Moderator, Michael Seth

These HIST 150 students examined the issue of tyranny and were assigned a book (including novels) and wrote a paper analyzing it and placing it into historical perspective.

Henry Forbes	“Tyranny and Totalitarianism”
Blair Hinckle	<i>1984</i>
Natalie Zuppas	<i>Brave New World</i>
Erin Batik	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
Benjamin Turner	“Snyder’s <i>On Tyranny</i> ”

Bush v. Gore: 20 Years Later

Moderator, Marty Cohen

This POSC 225 class wrote papers about the 2000 election which was the closest and possibly the most controversial in American history.

James Townsend	
Noah Tressler	“The Election of 2000”
Lauren Kammerman	

Voices from the Past: The Sources of World History

Moderator, T.J. Fitzgerald

Students in HIST 101 wrote analyses of primary sources of their own choosing.

Rosalie Chesney	“Konstantin Mihailovic’s <i>Memoirs of a Janissary</i> ”
Jacob French	<i>The Kama Sutra</i>
Natalie Hackmann	<i>The Lais of Marie de France</i>
Thomas Pelletier	<i>The Epic of Sundiata</i>

The Deep Past Speaks: Analyzing Primary Sources in World History

Moderator, T.J. Fitzgerald

Students in HIST 101 wrote close analyses of well-known historical texts from around the world.

Lynn Downie	<i>The Secret History of the Mongols</i>
Ryan Ritter	<i>The Art of War</i>
Addie Simkin	<i>The Tale of Genji</i>
Rachel Smith	<i>The Book of Dede Korkut</i>
Haley Thomas	<i>The Lais of Marie de France</i>

Writing with Archives, I

Moderator, Vanessa Rouillon

The presenters in this panel conducted research at Special Collections at JMU during fall 2019, per the requirements of their WRTC 103 class. They have uncovered lesser-known histories of student activism at the former Madison College.

Kate E. Bass and Evan K. Bates	“Democracy Prevailing in our Student Organizations”
Riley N. Miller and Emma K. Seli	“Breaking the Silence and Being Punished for it: Student Activism”
Josh C. Poe and Brian P. Thomas	“A High Type of Patriotic Service”

Writing With Archives, II

Moderator, Vanessa Rouillon

The presenters in this panel conducted research at Special Collections online at JMU during spring 2020, per the requirements of their WRTC 103 class. They have uncovered lesser-known histories of student activism at the former Madison College.

Chase Horick and Seid Lejlic	“A ‘Peace Loving’ Nation”
Aria Stevens and Ethan Tureson	“A Challenge to the College Women”
Emily Shin	“Japan’s Attack has Unified the US”

Women, Revolution, and the Spanish Civil War

Moderator, Jessica Davidson

HIST 150 students assessed, using the work of historian Mary Nash, the gains and losses for women during the 1930s Republic and civil war in Spain.

Sloane Youtsey	”Women, Revolution, and the Spanish Civil War”
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The Personal and the Political

Moderator, James McGinnis

These students in WRTC 103 were asked to write a narrative essay about a personal experience that had something to do with a bigger issue in our society.

Gillian Saunders	“Food for the Famished”
Zain Farooq	“I Wish the World Knew”
Hayley Stage	“Kroger: Predator of the Hourly Employee”
Chloe Wilmoth	“Corona? More like CoroHAH”

Reflections on Rome

Moderator, James McGinnis

These students in HUM 250 were assigned a research paper on a topic of their choosing within the field of ancient Roman history and culture.

Randall Bedford	“Greek Mediator’s Intent on Comprehensive Peace”
Shawdee Bakhtiari	“Dido: The Power of Femininity and Female Empowerment”
Storm Behrens	“The First of the Roman Empire”

Attendance Tracking: Student Support or Breach of Privacy?

Moderator, Danielle DeRise

This WRTC 103 panel features a group of three students who created a digital assignment that curates sources about campus-tracking systems, as well as three students who were inspired by this digital assignment to write final research papers further exploring this conversation.

Anelise Johnson	“The Impact of Schools Tracking their Students’ Locations”
Sara Higgins	“Technologic Tracking”
Rhett Jones	“Tracking Student Data on Campus”

Analyzing Primary Sources in U.S. History

Moderator, Evan Friss

Students in HIST 225 wrote original papers, analyzing different primary sources that speak to a similar theme.

Hannah Taylor	“Industrial Capitalism and Working Conditions”
Lauren West	“William Lloyd Garrison and Sojourner T ruth”
Thomas Cane	“Rhetorics of Slavery”
Tiffany Shim	“How Women are Closing the Gender Gap”

Word and Image: Multimedia Translation

Moderator, Sara O'Connor

These WRTC 103 students chose one of their papers to translate from text into digital form. Papers covered topics from what it means to be educated to immigration to issues in their home towns.

Vivienne Barnhart	“Mother Nature”
Bailey Kramarik	“Baltimore Harbor”

Global Human Rights Issues

Moderator, Louise Loe

Students in HIST 150 did research and wrote papers on human rights issues around the world in the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Abby Brickler	“Education in Pakistan”
Sarah Caufield	“Disabilities Laws in US”
Alison Levine	“War in Syria”
Nicholas O'Reilly	“Indonesia: A Country in Environmental and Societal Disarray”
Haley Thomas	“Women in Saudi Arabia”

Global Human Rights

Moderator, Louise Loe

Students in this HIST 150 class wrote papers on important human rights issues around the world.

Julia Day	“The Evolution of Women’s Rights in Pakistan”
John Duran	“The Final Solution to the Armenian Question”
Alexa Houck	“Bioweaponry and the United States”
Olivia Lansing	“The United States’ Use of Depleted Uranium in Syria”
Jessica Reyes	“Made in Bangladesh”
Ryan Scafuri	“The Fading Freedom of the Press in the United States”

Roman Explorations in Literature and Art

Moderator, Michael Allain

For this class, HUM 250: Foundations of Western Culture (Rome), students could choose either an analysis of a piece of Roman literature or an aspect of Roman art or archaeology.

Maureen Curran	“Apuleius’ Golden Ass”
Evelina Junkin	“Etruscan ‘skinny’ Sculpture Style”
Henry Forbes	“On the Significance of Mortality in Virgil’s <i>Aeneid</i> ”

Explorations in Ancient Greek Culture

Moderator, Michael Allain

These papers exhibit outstanding work written by students in HUM 250 who chose either an archaeological study or a literary analysis as a culminating project in this exploration of Ancient Greek Culture.

Hannah Tucker “Plot Patterns in Plato’s *Symposium*”
Jess Park “Patriarchy in the *Odyssey*”

Communicating about Complex Public Issues: Poster Session and Discussion

Moderators, Lori Britt, Tim Ball, and Sarah Taylor-Mahak

These teams from SCOM 123H will share posters and discuss the process of understanding how communication shapes our abilities to address complex public issues as well as present their persuasive appeals for a way to begin to address the issue at a local level.

Elizabeth Kraus
Courtney Forberg
Courtney Fusting “What Can be Done to Ensure the Welfare of Migrant Workers
Logan Roach in the Shenandoah Valley?”
Shelby Staib

Gabrielle Gauldin “To What Extent Does Greek Life Contribute to Sexual Assault
Hailey Johnson on College Campuses?”
Erin Young

Jackson Barnett
Taylor Gryder “How Should Agricultural Sustainability be Improved?”
Cullen Munro
Sandy Tober

Allison Stanley “How Can We Address the Issue of Plastic Waste Impacting the
Julie Shreve Shenandoah Valley?”
Madison Lane

Michael Buncher
Rachel Zindler “How Should We Reform Sexual Education?”
Phoebe Wiseman
Madison Munson

Shared Reading Experiences: Poster Session

Moderator, Cindy Kleivickis

Our Roop Learning Community section of ISCI 172 collaborated with a shared book discussion group and shared class projects between JMU students and students from AP English and AP Seminar students from Huguenot High School in Richmond.

Kaitlyn Smith “Shared Experiences Reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*
between JMU science students and Huguenot High
School AP English Students”

Microsociological Analyses

Moderator, Kerry Dobransky

These SOC1140 students worked as a team to use course materials and original research to examine YouTube influencers and firefighters as social groups.

Sama Alsendi and Leah McNamara
Brittany Boyd “A Microsociological Analysis of You Tubers”
“A Microsociological Analysis of Firefighters”

Making History with the *New York Times*

Moderator, Colleen Moore

Students in this HIST 102 class constructed historical narratives of an event of their choosing using news articles published in the *New York Times* over a one-week period.

Jaylen Tyree “The Historic 1992 Summer Olympics”

Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Atlantic World

Moderator, Christian Davis

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 colonialism.

Alec Dalton “Olaudah Equiano’s Narrative of his Childhood in Slavery”

Photography and Personal Identity, I

Moderator, H. Gelfand

Students in this HIST 150 class created research papers for which they located historical photographs that represented their identity, and then conducted interviews with experts to help analyze their photographs.

Kate Day
Perrin McHugh
Caroline Rose “Photography and Personal Identity”
Ryan Whitty
Alexandru Statie

Photography and Personal Identity, II

Moderator, H. Gelfand

Students in this HIST 150 class created research papers for which they located historical photographs that represented their identity, and then conducted interviews with experts to help analyze their photographs.

Jake Brooks
Kaitlyn Connolly
Lorelei Dellavedora “Photography and Personal Identity”
Corinne Martin
Rhea Morris
Colin Nininger

Inequality in Immigration, Education, and Environmentalism

Moderator, Jay Varner

A panel from a WRTC 103 class explores discriminatory practices in the American immigration system, in public school education, and environmental policies.

Jessani Collier	“Implementation of Renewable Energy Will Stop Environmental Racism”
Xaiver Williams	“Unforeseen Inequality in Standardized Testing”
Martina Wulf	“Considerations in Immigration Reform”
Laura Warrington	“Chargemasters: The Medical Billing System that Could Ruin your Life”

Misinformation, Rhetoric, Debt, and Racism: The New America

Moderator, Jay Varner

Students from a WRTC 103 class explore how racism, misinformation, political rhetoric, and surging student loan debt are each reshaping America.

Catherine Bowman	“The Intersection of Crisis and Racism during COVID-19: The Unintended Consequences of a Health Crisis”
Shobhit Choudhury	“Two Birds, One Reality”
Evan Holden	“Honor to Evil”
Chloé Mitchell	“Get Out and Stay Out: A Look into Criminal Disenfranchisement in America”

Cultural Significance of a Single Work of Art in a Museum

Moderator, John Ott

ARTH 205 students conducted research on the cultural significance of a single work of art which they had selected during a visit to a museum.

Noah Kolafa	“The Temple of Dendur: Augustus’ Legitimization of Power in Egypt”
Kaitlynn Tucker	“Caligula and Iconoclasm”

Pandemic Projects

Moderator, Karen McDonnell

As all JMU courses went online right after spring break amid the spread of COVID-19, students in Critical Reading and Writing (WRTC 103) composed pieces about the impact of digital technologies on literacy.

Emma Kropp	“Goodbye, College”
Jacob Hamet	“Recording College Lectures”
Ethan Estrem	“What Are the Dangers of Integrating Technology into the Academic Setting?”

Going Digital: Literacy in the 21st Century

Moderator, Karen McDonnell

These WRTC 103 students are considering the impact of digital technologies on college students' reading and writing skills.

Kiernan Green	“Video Games: More Than Just a Waste of Time”
Caroline Sokol	“It Takes More Than a Marriage”
Julia Plashal	“Public or Private School?”

Telling Your Own Story: How My Life Intersects with Social Change [Using Adobe Sparks Platform]

Moderator, Kristen McCleary

HIST 150 Honors students composed Adobe Spark stories where they mixed text with images to convey a story of how their lives intersected with social change. Topics ranged from COVID-19 to the evolution of women in STEM fields.

Darby Henn

Carter Gilbert

Bee Swatosh

Ashlyn Campbell

Roujon Aranowzari

“Telling Your Own Story: How My Life Intersects with Social Change [Using Adobe Spark Platform]”

Producing and Analyzing Oral Histories about Social Change and History

Moderator, Kristen McCleary

Students in HIST 150 interviewed individuals about social change and then analyzed those interviews in short papers.

Grace Templeton

Sophia Tiedt

Leah Wilcznski

Meghan Lankford

Ellen Franzen

“How does growing up in a country connected to the British empire affect someone's immigration to the United States and the transition into American culture?”

“Drawing from the interviews and secondary sources, evaluate how attitudes towards racial difference have or have not changed according to the opinions of people in the interviews.”

“Evaluating stories of immigration, describe the expectations immigrants had of the US and how the reality of immigrating to the US measured up against expectations. How does the culture they immigrated from affect their transition to American culture?”

“How has federal legislation about standardized testing [No Child Left Behind] and disability impacted education according to those interviewed?”

“How has public education changed over time, particularly relating to the No Child Left Behind Act and among the disabled population, and what qualities do good teachers possess?”

Reimagining Knowledge of Time and Cause through Narratives by Jorge Luis Borges

Moderator, Heidi Pennington

Students in English 221H ("Knowing and Telling: How Narratives Produce Knowledge in Latin American and Other Fantastic Fictions") analyzed the nuances of narrative form and the ways in which how something is told can expose our assumptions about what counts as "knowledge," and can thus determine what we know, or think we know, about reality.

Amanda Fischer

Lauren Plews

Quintin Adkins

Nick Saliby

“The Implications of Infinite Possibilities”

“Less of a Labyrinth, More of a Maze”

“The Concept of Time: Borges’ ‘The Garden of Forking Paths’”

“The Possibilities of History: Jorge Luis Borges’ ‘The Garden of Forking Paths’”

Reimagining Knowledge and/of the Self through Narratives by Borges, Cortazar, and Ocampo

Moderator, Heidi Pennington

Students in English 221H ("Knowing and Telling: How Narratives Produce Knowledge in Latin American and Other Fantastic Fictions") analyzed the nuances of narrative form and the ways in which how something is told can expose our assumptions about what counts as "knowledge," and can thus determine what we know, or think we know, about reality.

Sarah Incorvaia	“Memory that Emphasized Uncertainty and Questions One’s Sense of Self”
Jordyn Fantasia	“The Autobiography of Irene: Past and Present Irene”
Genevieve Eddy	“Knowledge vs. Belief Borges’ ‘The Library of Babel’”

Philosophical Applications

Moderator, Michael Trocchia

Alex Dumouchelle	“Ictus: A Musical and Ontological Arrangement”
Ryan Kiernan	“The Successful But Bored Roma”
Heidi Colwell	“Camus and COVID-19”
Truman Deree	“Mad Max: An Absurdist Icon”