

Wright College

Student Research and Creative Scholarship Colloquium

Sponsored by the Honors Program



Spring 2018 Program

Wednesday, April 18 in S-247 [Science Building] 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

11:05 – 11:10 a.m. Welcome

11:10 - 11:30 a.m. Student-Professor Discussion

The Greek Plays: An Analysis of the Ethical Development and its Impact on Humanity

Prof. Vincent Bruckert and Arkan Alani will discuss the moral values of the Greek plays and their impact on current generations. The presenters will elaborate how the Greek writers discussed two types of moral values: the absolute values, such as honor, respect and loyalty, which do not change with time, and the variable values, the ones that used to be morally acceptable, but are not anymore, such as slavery, racial superiority and blind submission to gods. Prof. Bruckert and Arkan Alani will explore dangerous impact of the second type of moral values on the non-critical thinkers visible in the plays like Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis*, in which the Greek general Agamemnon sacrifices his own daughter for the “good” of the Greek fleet. The presenters will conclude their discussion with the message that we must evolve through debate to develop a moral system that enables humanity to live in peace.

Presenter: Arkan Alani

Faculty Sponsor: Vincent Bruckert (English 101 Honors)

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Political Science: Diplomacy Lab Session I
Has the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Been a Success?

A panel of 6-8 students will discuss various aspects of nuclear weapons diplomacy, including:

- The establishment of nuclear weapons free zones
- The current problem with North Korea and the NPT
- The success during the breakup of the USSR
- The effectiveness of the verification process and control over exports of nuclear materials

Presenters: Political Science 204 Honors students

Faculty Sponsor: Merry Mayer (Political Science 204 Honors)

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. -1:50 p.m. Interactive Session
CV Workshop: Building and Documenting Academic Skills

The workshop will provide students with resources and ideas that should help them build their academic CVs. The workshop will benefit Honors and PTK students, as well as other high-achieving students interested in academia or advanced education.

Facilitator: Natasha Todorovich

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Political Science: Diplomacy Lab Session II
Religious Actors Making the World Better
Our Imperiled Media—Freedom of the Press and Fake News in the Age of Trump

In this session, the presenter will introduce:

- A Diplomacy Project for the U.S. Department of State where students examine how religious actors around the world are working to solve some of the most critical problems.
- An examination of the imperiled U.S. media, including the growth of disinformation (“fake news”) on social media, the de-legitimization of the mainstream press as “fake,” and the loss of local news outlets.

Presenters: Political Science 201 Students

Faculty Sponsor: Merry Mayer (Political Science 201)

Thursday, April 19 in S-247 [Science Building] 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome Breakfast

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Literature

Moral Corruption in Literature

In this session, students from Literature 113 HON9 will discuss the topic of moral corruption in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Introduction, Prologue, and Tale*; Feodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*; Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*; William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*; Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; and Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. In this presentation, students will examine some of the specific themes and questions of these works, including those topics they will more fully address in their 2500-3000-word final research papers.

Presenters: Literature 113 Honors Students

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Petersen (Literature 113 Honors)

10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Physics

Wind Tunnel Aerodynamic Study of Semi-Trailer Truck Shape

The objective of this study is to examine reduction in drag force on a semi-trailer truck model using a wind tunnel. For this study, a 1:34 scale model of a semi-trailer truck is modified with various add-on structures connected to the front in order to improve the aerodynamics and the fuel mileage of the truck. A vehicle with optimized aerodynamics, or low drag, can greatly improve its flow. Drag depends on the density of a medium, velocity, and total reference area of the object. Drag (D) = $(\rho v^2 s CD)/2$. The value of the drag coefficient (CD) is always empirically determined through a wind tunnel experiment. The higher the drag coefficient (CD), the less aerodynamic the object is. From this experiment, the data show that drag is dependent on the drag coefficient. The coefficient of drag is proportional to drag but inversely proportional to velocity square. In the experiment, the mean coefficient of drag (CD) of the rectangular pyramid was the smallest among the tested structures; therefore, it is the most aerodynamic structure. From this, it proceeds that a semi-trailer truck utilizing a rectangular pyramid figure will likely have higher fuel efficiency. In fact, future semi-truck designs should look like the rectangular pyramid model.

Presenter: Fung Wong

Faculty Sponsor: Soma Dey (Physics 221)

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Student Networking

Coffee/Tea Time

12:30 - 12:45 p.m. Feminism

Bayonetta through the Feminist Lens

The presenter uses Second and Third-Wave feminist theory to explore whether or not *Bayonetta* is an object of sexist male fantasy or an empowered feminist heroine.

Presenter: Stephanie Maier

Faculty sponsor: Valerie Pell (Humanities 144)

12:45 – 1:00 p.m. Contemporary Literature

A Discussion on the Unspoken within Contemporary Literature

Within Contemporary literature, more authors are willing to push the boundaries of realism and discuss old topics in a new light. Authors depict relationships, mental illness, sex, and death honestly, and demonstrate the variations of perspectives that time can have on them. Maggie Estep writes about the feeling of having a crush on someone but skips all the fluff and romance. Lorrie Moore illustrates the stress mental illness has on a family dynamic in the short story "Referential." In Mary Gaitskill's "Mirrorball," a one-night stand is romanticized, showing how a topic that had been viewed as dirty and impulsive could also be fundamentally beautiful.

Presenter: Gabriela Pawlowska

Faculty sponsor: Vincent Bruckert (Literature 126)

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. Slavic Literature

Slavic Literature in the Late Twentieth Century: Becoming Postmodern

In this presentation, students will discuss the novel *Identity*, written by Milan Kundera, a Franco-Czech author, and the novella *Escape Hatch*, written by Vladimir Makanin, a Russian author. In their analyses, students will explore the themes of identity, gender, relationships, and dystopian and utopian literature, while elaborating on the works' postmodern elements evident in narrative structures, characterizations, themes, and metaphors.

Individual Presentations: Julia Borrell

Christina Lopez

Group Presentation: Tamer Zitouneh, Senad Smajlović and Mateusz Gebski.

Faculty Sponsor: Natasha Todorovich (English 102 Honors)

2:00 - 2:20 p.m. Visual Art/Multimedia Display: Digital Photography

Being

This project explores different aspects of human nature such as disassociation, depression, and medicating. The presenter uses an abstract set of works to reveal a different look at *normal* and to bring attention to the stigma that surrounds mental health. The presentation will challenge the viewers to look beyond themselves.

Presenters: Caitlin Cabanas

Faculty Sponsor: Colleen Keihm (Cmmmedia 167)

2:20 - 2:40 p.m. Discussion: Philosophy and Social Science

The Meaning of Freedom

In this presentation, the presenter defines, describes, and classifies the different types of freedom while highlighting the necessity of freedom and how freedom impacts human beings and shapes human societies. Furthermore, the presenter analyzes the meaning of human actions and human relationship with the concept of freedom and investigates freedom as a physical, philosophical, and psychological concept.

Presenter: Pahola Mercedes

Faculty sponsor: Natasha Todorovich (English 101)

All presentations will be held in the Science Building (S-247)

Event Coordinator: Prof. Natasha Todorovich

Honors Program Coordinators: Profs. Susan Colon and Natasha Todorovich

*Faculty sponsors: Profs. Vincent Bruckert, Michael Petersen, Merry Mayer, Soma Dey, Valerie Pell,
and Colleen Keihm.*

Thank you to all of our student presenters and to our faculty sponsors!

