2:00P.M. | MADISON DIAMOND
Serialized Television:
A look at the past, present, and future of serialized TV

2:30P.M. | JOHN RUSSELL
Untitled

3:00P.M. | GRACE CANTOR
American Heroines or American Martyrs?
The conflicting roles of women in American television police procedurals

3:30P.M. | JAKE NELSON
Malevolent Tangent

4:00P.M. | MILANNY VAZQUEZ
The Way It Was

4:30P.M. | DAMION WHITTINGHAM
C.R.I.S.P.R. Whisper

5:00P.M. | AMANDA SUAREZ
More Than Waisted Space
THE NARRATIVE STUDIES MAJOR

Narrative Studies prepares students for the development and evaluation of original content for novels, films, theatre and other narrative platforms, but recognizes that the range of professional opportunities in literature and the performing arts is much wider than the roles of author, screenwriter or playwright.

To recognize a good story, to critique, help shape, realize and transform it, requires a background in the history of narrative, cross-cultural and contemporary models, and an understanding of the broader context of popular culture.

IN NARRATIVE STUDIES, STUDENTS EXPLORE:

American Studies and Ethnicity   English
Anthropology                     French and Italian
Art and Design                   German
Cinematic Arts                   History
Classics                        Music
Comparative Literature          Philosophy
Dramatic Arts                   Slavic Languages and Literatures
East Asian Languages and Cultures Spanish and Portuguese
**THE CAPSTONE PROJECT**

All students in the Narrative Studies major complete a capstone project during their senior year. This project, which may be critical or creative, is devised by the student and is a culmination of the student’s education at USC. Each project is done under the guidance of a faculty supervisor in a relevant discipline.

We thank faculty from the Department of English for their generous support in guiding our students to complete their capstone projects.

Read ahead to learn more about this semester’s capstone projects.

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**THE CAPSTONE AS STONEHENGE**

The capstone project can be compared to the *lintel stones* that span across the standing stones at the ancient monument. If the capstone project spans across the top, then each standing stone represents a pillar of Narrative Studies: one performance-based, and the other literary-based. Each student designs and executes a capstone project that brings these disciplines together.
2P.M.

Madison Diamond

Serialized Television:
A look at the past, present, and future of serialized TV

In this project, I will conduct a thorough analysis of serialized television from the past to the present. I will discuss the origins of serialized programming with 19th-century Victorian periodicals, daytime radio, and soap operas. I will talk about how serialized programs were adversely affected by a lack of technology, causing the shows to draw low ratings. I will discuss how DVR and streaming services led to the rebirth of serialized television in the new millennium. Finally, I will analyze the writing and editing techniques of serialized shows during this period.

SUPERVISOR:
David Román

2:30P.M.

John Russell

Untitled

Music comes last in cinema. What would happen if it came first?

SUPERVISOR:
David Román
Grace Cantor
American Heroines or American Martyrs?
The conflicting roles of women in American television police procedurals

My capstone will assess and interpret representations of gender in American television police procedurals, with a focus on the role of women. I will explore how these shows assimilate violent women into a militant nationalist identity, even as they undermine feminine toughness and present women as vulnerable victims.

SUPERVISOR:
David Román

Jake Nelson
Malevolent Tangent

*Malevolent Tangent* is an interactive science fiction narrative that challenges the concept of AI sapience. Set in the dystopian future of 2069, a pit-fighting android named Primus becomes self-aware and tries to discover his identity in a world entrenched in conflict.

SUPERVISOR:
David Román
Milanny Vazquez  
The Way It Was

A biographical piece about my father, Benito Vazquez. In this, I will reflect both on the man I know him to be today and the man he used to be.

**SUPERVISOR:**  
Thomas Gustafson

4:30P.M.  

Damion Whittingham  
C.R.I.S.P.R. Whisper

*C.R.I.S.P.R. Whisper* is an audio-textual hybrid where listening becomes reading. This nonfictional narrative utilizes an internal monologue to expose the clash between greed, media, medicine, and hidden agenda—because not all secrets should be kept.

**SUPERVISOR:**  
David Román
I wrote this piece in an effort to educate and elaborate on the intricacies of eating disorders both in popular media and personal testimonies. It involves scientific research, stories inspired by interviews with people who have ED experience, poetry, my own experience, and reviews of movies, books, and music. By knowing how it truly feels to have an eating disorder, we can be more aware as a culture and end the cycle.

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