

C A P S T

R A C I N G S

**11.20.2017 | THH 420**

**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  
Anthropology  
Art and Design  
Cinematic Arts  
Classics  
Comparative Literature  
Dramatic Arts  
East Asian Languages and Cultures

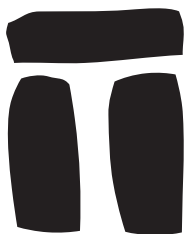
English  
French and Italian  
German  
History  
Music  
Philosophy  
Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Spanish and Portuguese

# 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.



## 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.

# PRESENTATIONS

**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

**3P.M.**

## **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

**3:30P.M.**

## **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

**4P.M.**

## **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

5P.M.

## Amanda Suarez

### More Than Waisted Space

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.

**SUPERVISOR:**

David L. Ulin

## WE TELL STORIES, AND STORIES MAKE US HUMAN.

We use them to tell us what should be, what could be, and the human truth of what now is. We collect them over centuries, tell them to our children, and they define us as cultures. We change our stories, start new ones, rethink old ones and experiment as we shift our sense of who we are and what we value. Take away our stories, and there is not much left of us.

## OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- BA** English (Literature)
- BA** English (Creative Writing)
- BA** Narrative Studies
- Minor** English
- Minor** Narrative Structure
- Minor** Early Modern Studies
- MA** Literary Editing and Publishing
- PhD** English Literature
- PhD** Creative Writing and Literature

## **USC DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

USC Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
3501 Trousdale Parkway  
Taper Hall of Humanities 404  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0354  
(213) 740-3725  
[dornsife.usc.edu/engl](http://dornsife.usc.edu/engl)

## **UNDERGRADUATE ADVISERS**

### **Tim Gotimer**

THH 406  
[gotimer@usc.edu](mailto:gotimer@usc.edu)

### **Laura Hough**

THH 404  
[lough@usc.edu](mailto:lough@usc.edu)

## **DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

### **Professor Lawrence D. Green**

THH 426  
[lgreen@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:lgreen@dornsife.usc.edu)

## **DEPARTMENT CHAIR**

### **Professor David St. John**

THH 404A  
[dstjohn@usc.edu](mailto:dstjohn@usc.edu)



**USC** University of  
Southern California