

NARRATIVE STUDIES CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

APRIL 25 – APRIL 27, 2017 | THH 420

	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26	Thursday, April 27
11:30a.m.	Henry Cilek	Arielle Sitrick	Ian Trainor
12:00p.m.	Ramiro Alexander-Duchesne	Domonique Brown	Eileen Kwon
12:30p.m.	Linda Rose	Nancy Guan	Antonio Munoz Espino
1:00p.m.	Ryan McRee	Heather Duncan	Haley Beasley
1:30p.m.	Jason Bivinetto	Madison Tucky	Bryce Rachlin
2:00p.m.	He Zhang	Lauren Terazawa	Jacqueline Beyer
2:30p.m.	Macaul Hodge	Jacob Moszkowski	Marissa Chupack
3:00p.m.	Sarah Sophia Yanni	Madeline Leist	AnnaLiese Burich
3:30p.m.	Cate Hurley	Chynna Cowart	Chloé Borenstein-Lawee
4:00p.m.	Hailey Koart	Michael Rovzar	Lindsey de Genova
4:30p.m.	Jacob Treat	Cody Kaneshiro	Jules Zucker

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.

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**, from departments across **USC DORNSIFE**, the **USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS**, and the **USC SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS** and the research librarians at **USC LIBRARIES** for their generous support in guiding our students to complete their capstone projects.

Tuesday, April 25

Henry Cilek

11:30a.m.

Threshold

Set in a near future, *Threshold* centers on the wayward couple of Jack and Molly who become ensnared in the utopian agenda of an artificially intelligent entity, Saphron. The analog mentality of an older, dwindling humanity is in conflict with the unstoppable momentum of the future. The nature of relationships, sexuality, and loyalty fall under assault in this sci-fi thriller.

SUPERVISOR:

M. G. Lord

Ramiro Alexander-Duchesne

12p.m.

Next Lifetime:

A patient love leads to timeless happiness

Some people search a lifetime to find their true love. A young woman searches many lifetimes to find hers.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Linda Rose

12:30p.m.

Different Cultures— Interwoven Lives

I will give a brief introduction to the 4th grade mapping project I created to replace the “sugar cube mission project” routinely used in 4th grade classrooms. While describing the project I will be showing a video (or still photos) taken in the classroom of the lesson being implemented.

SUPERVISORS:

Karen Halttunen
Kevin Starr

Ryan McRee

1p.m.

The Day the “Search for New Forms” Was Silenced:

A Narrative on the Life of Stanislavsky In Stalin’s Russia

Konstantin Stanislavsky, most famous as a founding member of the esteemed Moscow Art Theatre and developer of possibly the most influential and lasting acting “system” in the history of theatre, lived his twilight years in one of Russia’s darkest periods. During the rise of Stalinism, many Russian artists found it increasingly difficult to freely practice their art as Soviet Realism became the only permitted mode of art in the Soviet Union, and as an international celebrity, Stanislavsky faced house arrest, censorship, intimidation, espionage, misrepresentation in the press and many more trials imposed by Stalin’s government. An outline for a feature-length film about the last ten years of Stanislavsky’s life will accompany an essay including research on the period and a meditation on the challenge and process of converting history to structured narrative.

SUPERVISOR:

Sharon Carnicke

Jason Bivinetto

1:30p.m.

Wanderlust:

This Vast Arena

Wanderlust: This Vast Arena is an adventure-mystery novel that I have been planning gradually over the last several years. The protagonists are Joseph Giacomo and Erica Rainford, and they are university students at the fictional Ralph Hampton University, which is especially renowned worldwide for its focus on historical, archaeological, and anthropological disciplines. These characters' goals are to follow the clues on a path towards buried gold beneath the grave of former bank robber and bootlegger Frederick Hill, leader of the fictional Hill Gang syndicate of criminals active primarily within the American Southwest between the 1920s through 1940s, with the aged last surviving member offering a valuable lead to this treasure as long as he is still alive.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

He Zhang

2p.m.

Nowhere

A verbatim narrative exploration about the lives and identities of the international Chinese students living in Los Angeles.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Macaul Hodge

2:30p.m.

Her Story

This semester I wrote a collection of short stories about college women, taking from both personal experiences and interviews with peers. The stories cover a range of pertinent topics such as the awkwardness of social media, the unlikely consequences of casual sex, and the process of discovering ones sexuality. The collection acts as an honest, relatable (and often comedic) display of the real struggles college women face, and how friendship is essential to getting through it all.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Sarah Sophia Yanni

3p.m.

Cuentos:

Stories from my Notebooks

This project is a collection of personal essays based on my own childhood and adolescent life. I focus on the experience of growing up in a Spanish-speaking household, the difficulties of culture clashes, and the undeniable ties of family.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Cate Hurley

3:30p.m.

The Political Is Personal

Ruminations on the political shakedown of 2016 and its implications for Americans everywhere, drawing from research, family stories, and one student's observations from the precipice of whatever comes next.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Hailey Koart

4p.m.

Witnesses

In futuristic Highlands Scotland, a young woman tries to keep her family safe by avoiding the military draft for a war few believe in. Using her survival skills, tenacity, and a rare form of mind reading, she faces off against a system that sees her as a commodity more than a human being. *Witnesses* intersects Gaelic folklore with modern sci-fi to make an adventure novel about personhood, magic, and the stigma we place on people we don't understand.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Jacob Treat

4:30p.m.

The Men From Arkham:

The Influence Behind an Original
TV Pilot

This capstone project takes an analytical look at our infatuation with the narrative of fear, as well as the life, philosophy, and style of H.P Lovecraft. This analyses is then applied to my decision making in the planning of an original TV pilot, that takes place within the lovecraftian universe.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Wednesday, April 26

Arielle Sitrick

11:30a.m.

Musings of Color and Light

I wrote a book of poetry with musical and visual components for my Narrative Studies capstone project. Pay attention to the way structure shapes a story... it's all in the perspective! I tell a story of discovery, love, and growth through a deeply personal, slightly philosophical and wholly intimate lens.

Musings of color and light live as much in love and loss, as they do in politics and existential modes of thought. Speaking honestly from the heart is the best quality for a storyteller to have if she wishes to touch, move and heal others, and herself.

SUPERVISOR:

M. G. Lord

Domonique Brown

12p.m.

Conscious and Christian

A documentary exploring the possible disconnect in African Americans between one's Christian identity and one's millennial liberal perspective. Are the two sides at odds and is there room for religion in today's social landscape?

SUPERVISOR:

Christine Acham

Nancy Guan

12:30p.m.

Reflections as a Chinese American Youth

This project is an autobiographical collection of creative nonfiction stories that treats the mundane as something much more. The stories are as much nostalgic reflections on youth as they are odes to the author's Chinese American upbringing. Pieces like "Dumplings," "The Piba Tree," and "Chinatown" explore the significance of place, tradition, and food.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Heather Duncan

1p.m.

Woven:

A journey through memory

Woven is a multimedia project that includes narrative historical fiction, along with artistically re-created artifacts and a digital exploration to create an immersive experience, highlighting both the voices of history and the importance of the archival process.

SUPERVISOR:

Susan Segal

Madison Tucky

1:30p.m.

Modern Women

For this project, I have adapted *Little Women* into a blog, modernizing the content and writing as though I were one of the characters, Jo. I have studied other adaptations for inspiration and attempted to remain as close to the style of the original novel as possible, while still updating it for this generation.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Lauren Terazawa

2p.m.

Mother, May I?

This project is the beginning of a collection of short stories that revolve around a young woman, Anna, as she struggles to deal with the complicated relationship she has with her biological mother. Inspired by events from my life, this project serves as an outlet for all of the confused and complex feelings a little girl feels when her mother walks out of her life. The stories capture different moments from Anna's life from before her mother left to fourteen years later when Anna is finally ready to confront those feelings, and confront her mother.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Jacob Moszkowski

2:30p.m.

Rewriting Western Literature:

A Modern/Fictional Take on the Frontier, the West, and the Mexican Rebellion

My project is a culmination of my interest in Western artistic and literary mediums—inspired by Cormac McCarthy’s writing, the music of Johnny Cash, the film *Unforgiven*, and the popular 2010 video game *Red Dead Redemption*. It’s a fiction story with elements inspired by real events in the History of Mexico, such as the Mexican Revolution following the failed leadership of Porfirio Díaz. It will be accompanied by a Keynote presentation that showcases my inspirations as well as portions of my story itself.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Madeline Leist

3p.m.

My Escapade In Music

This piece includes my own personal narrative detailing my history with music. An EP of three songs gives my insights into struggles and the empowerment found in finding love in the self and others. Lyricism is the main tool I use, as well as my voice, to highlight the importance of positivity in music, sexuality and life as a whole.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Chynna Cowart

3:30p.m.

On Rye

On Rye is a TV adaptation and modernization of the *Catcher in the Rye*. *Catcher in the Rye* recounts the days following Holden's expulsion from Pencey Prep. Here, in my script, we follow Holden as he venues through his upperclassman years at the private school before he is expelled.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Michael Rovzar

4p.m.

My presentation will be on one non-fiction and one fiction. For the nonfiction component, I will be focused on personal relationships I have with my father and sister in a stream of consciousness style. For the fictional component, I will be writing a science fiction short story with the plot already established. This dynamic presents to approaches of writing—writing inside-out and outside-in respectively.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Cody Kaneshiro

4:30p.m.

Lives and Stories of Seniors:

Life Narratives in Late Life

Inspired by works such as *Working* by Studs Terkel and *Twilight* by Anna Devere Smith, my project is a compilation of interviews conducted with older adults studying meaning, transitions, and life histories in old age.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Thursday, April 27

Ian Trainor

11:30a.m.

Title Not Available

Description not available.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Eileen Kwon

12p.m.

The Power of Oxtail Soup

A collection of short stories derived from anecdotal histories investigates one family's eclectic Korean American experience, generational transitions, and how Korean American culture indelibly informs individual identity.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Antonio Munoz Espino

12:30p.m.

From Script to Novella: Love, Angst & Other Delusions

A reflection on the challenges of adapting a narrative from one platform to the other. In this case from a screenplay to prose, as I worked to adapt an original treatment for a film of mine into a novella, which among other things is an exploration of the universal themes of alienation, solitude and romance.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Haley Beasley

1p.m.

American Melanin

American Melanin looks to answer the question: “What does it mean to be a black woman in America?” This takes a look at intergenerational ideas of female blackness in America by examining what it means to my family through a multi-media project that attempts to answer the dominant questions through interviews, poetry, dance, and a short film.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Bryce Rachlin

1:30p.m.

Associated Press Reports— Bryce Rachlin Facing Potential Lifetime Ban

Bryce Rachlin has come forward as a former PED user to talk about his experience in using Human Growth Hormones starting at a young age. While many are remorseful, Mr. Rachlin openly talks about the tires of growing up short and the struggles of his ongoing injections occurring throughout his childhood.

SUPERVISORS:

Indra Mukhopadhyay
Lawrence Green

Jacqueline Beyer

2p.m.

Trump's America: "We Never Could Have Seen This Coming" and Other Fake News:

How literature, television, and film of the past decade and beyond largely predicted President Trump's election

A win that might go down in history as one of the most shocking and unexpected presidential elections of all time, it seems, might not have been so shocking after all—had we paid closer attention to the materials available to us. My paper looks analytically at the ways that citizens of America and the world have presented our country in their narratives and their implications about the frustrations and foundations that led to the election of our 45th president.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Marissa Chupack

2:30p.m.

A Biological Explanation for Welcome Week:

Why these “Narrative Studies” kids are everywhere

Using current topics in neuroscience, psychology, (and a little anthropology), this project seeks to explain the appeal of narrative not only to incoming USC undergraduates but to all human beings. *A Biological Explanation* bridges disciplines across Dornsife in a research-paper-personal-narrative hybrid that vidences, Modernism, modern scientific theories, and personal anecdotes to make an important statement accessible to all: storytelling is integral not only to society but to brains.

SUPERVISORS:

Jonas Kaplan
Lawrence Green

AnnaLiese Burich

3p.m.

Making Pies vs. Making Guys:

A Feminist Study of the Use of Food in *Sex and the City*

For every sex scene in *Sex and the City*, there is an equal and opposite brunch scene. And, it is in these scenes that the feminist meat of the show truly happens. My paper analyzes the use of food in *Sex and the City* in terms of its feminist implications for the modern woman in her relationships with men, other women, and herself.

SUPERVISORS:

Tania Modleski
Lawrence Green

Chloé Borenstein- Lawee

3:30p.m.

Résistance:

An Untold Holocaust Narrative

La Résistance is a feature-length screenplay telling the true story of Fernande Weg, who was a member of the French resistance movement during the Holocaust. The project is a hybrid of historical research and creative writing, acting as an exploration in how to tell an under-represented narrative in a widely known historical context.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Lindsey de Genova

4p.m.

The Music of Memory

My thesis presentation is a collection of short narratives that centralize themselves around memory recollection and the music associated with the past. The narratives all involve the music of the moment and the creation of feeling through the association of music and the past.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Jules Zucker

4:30p.m.

Banjoes, Prose and Railroad Hoboes

A medley of writing projects examining or inspired by hoboes and their influence on American folk music.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

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

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