

NARRATIVE STUDIES CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

APRIL 16 – APRIL 20, 2018 | THH 420

	Monday, April 16	Tuesday, April 17	Wednesday, April 18
10:00a.m.	Hanna Reynolds	Clay Kim	Ossy Chandiyana
10:30a.m.	Jamaal Armstrong	Miranda Mazariegos	Cal Moreno
11:00a.m.	Spencer Lee	Danyal Brink (11:10)	Miles Woods
11:30a.m.	Lauren Jacobs	Jamie Rifkin (11:40)	Tillie Clower
2:00p.m.	Kirsten Greenwood	Madelin Lum	Camilla Revah
2:30p.m.	Madeleine Remi	Dilyara Castro	Michael Savio
3:00p.m.	Carlyn Greenwald	Casey McAlary	Maggie Myers
3:30p.m.	Kitty O'Connor	Gabriela Fernandez	Melody Esqueda
4:00p.m.	-	Aly Ferguson	Everton Rocca

	Thursday, April 19	Friday, April 20
10:00a.m.	Alyssa Rubio	Joseph Scavone
10:30a.m.	Alexcea Matthews	Claire Potter
11:00a.m.	-	Nicholas Hudson
11:30a.m.	-	Zachary McLane
2:00p.m.	Joyce Chun	Olivia Connolly
2:30p.m.	Hallie Martin	Cassandra Kessler
3:00p.m.	Napoleon Martinez	Victor Koech
3:30p.m.	Whitney Levine	Sarah Shaffer

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.

Monday, April 16

10a.m.	Hanna Reynolds	Of The Dissolving Few
10:30a.m.	Jamaal Armstrong	W.O.W
11a.m.	Spencer Lee	So an Alien Walks into a Bar
11:30a.m.	Lauren Jacobs	Lemonade: An Analysis
2p.m.	Kirsten Greenwood	Let Me Tell You A Story: Fairy Tales for the 21st Century
2:30p.m.	Madeleine Remi	Panakeia
3p.m.	Carlyn Greenwald	Five Over the Speed Limit
3:30p.m.	Kitty O'Connor	My Attempt To Write a Play

Tuesday, April 17

10a.m.	Clay Kim	LA Riots: The Immigrant Side
10:30a.m.	Miranda Mazariegos	Brainstorms
11a.m.	Danyal Brink	Underground Roots
11:30a.m.	Jamie Rifkin	Unsettled
2p.m.	Madelin Lum	Betwixt & Between
2:30p.m.	Dilyara Castro	The Stories We Tell . . .
3p.m.	Casey McAlary	She and I
3:30p.m.	Gabriela Fernandez	Manos Trabajadoras
4p.m.	Aly Ferguson	The Geology of Me

Wednesday, April 18

10a.m.	Ossy Chandiyana	How to Make a Good Thing Last // My Brother's Keeper
10:30a.m.	Cal Moreno	Stalling
11a.m.	Miles Woods	Infinite Jest: A Three Act Play

11:30a.m.	Tillie Clower	The Purpose of Stream of Consciousness as a Narrative Mode as Shown Through Virginia Woolf's <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> and Terrence Malick's <i>The Tree of Life</i>
2p.m.	Camilla Revah	It's All in the Genes
2:30p.m.	Michael Savio	Make America Laugh Again
3p.m.	Maggie Myers	
3:30p.m.	Melody Esqueda	Dancing With Our Ancestors: A Chicano Perspective
4p.m.	Everton Rocca	The Shield and Mask Society

Thursday, April 19

10a.m.	Alyssa Rubio	The Psychology of Home
10:30a.m.	Alexcea Matthews	Monster Hunting
2p.m.	Joyce Chun	Then and Now: Korean Immigrant Experiences
2:30p.m.	Hallie Martin	The Lives of Pablo
3p.m.	Napoleon Martinez	Jidouhanbaiki
3:30p.m.	Whitney Levine	Understanding the Shoah through the Second Generation

Friday, April 20

10a.m.	Joseph Scavone	How Do You Want To Do This?
10:30a.m.	Claire Potter	Echo
11a.m.	Nick Hudson	Civil War Monuments as Voices and Rememberers in the American Narrative
11:30a.m.	Zachary McLane	Memories of Imag(in)ing
2p.m.	Olivia Connolly	Clarke Creek, Kentucky
2:30p.m.	Cassandra Kessler	Accepted Realities
3p.m.	Victor Koech	The Art of the Graphic Novel
3:30p.m.	Sarah Shaffer	Counting the Stars

Monday, April 16

Hanna Reynolds

10:00a.m.

Of The Dissolving Few

Of the Dissolving Few is an attempt to understand what it means to be “self” and/ or “other”, and how these two boundaries, boundaries which dichotomize states of being - gender, race, class - are constructed and can be deconstructed. Of the Dissolving Few is a frame narrative with the extradiegetic narrative framing the autodiegetic narratives; by structuring my narrative around these switchbacks, I show both a de-familiarizing reality of which the protagonists act as absolute focalizer, as well as a reality which “others” them and forces them to be externalized.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Jamaal Armstrong

10:30a.m.

W.O.W:

Women of Wrestling

This project analyzes and explores the topic of women in professional wrestling in the form of a fanzine. The zine features a narrative timeline depicting important moments and performers in the history of televised women’s wrestling (complete with collages, and detailed columns on important wrestlers) and an exploration of the fan’s perspective in women’s wrestling and how the “fan” can influence portrayals of wrestlers, labor conditions and the way women’s wrestling is monetized.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Spencer Lee

11:00a.m.

So an Alien Walks into a Bar

“So an Alien Walks into a Bar” and “(Other piece)” are two short stories that examine generational differences as well as comedy as a coping mechanism. Both pieces are darkly comedic with an absurd twist. “(Other piece)” is about a young aristocrat who has his world turned upside down when he is forced into a different environment, and “So an Alien Walks into a Bar” is about an alien who comes to earth to try to be a stand-up comedian, but only has all of earth’s dark history and tragic events as material.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Lauren Jacobs

11:30a.m.

Lemonade: An Analysis

Beyoncé’s visual album *Lemonade* is comprised on intersecting and complicated narratives that transcend linear time and storytelling. The lyrics and spoken word within this visual album, as well as their on-screen representations, will be analyzed within the context of themes of intersectionality and rememory (originated in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*). At its core, *Lemonade* is an expansive and interconnected story. Knowles’ framing of each song, the nouns used to preface each track, costumes, choreography and the sociopolitical, gendered and racial implications of this performance will be closely read and discussed.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Kirsten Greenwood

2:00p.m.

Let Me Tell You A Story:

Fairy Tales for the 21st Century

A collection of 5 short stories, all of which are original fairy tales. These stories utilize the linguistic style of the traditional fairy tales of Hans Christian Anderson and The Brother's Grimm, as well as the dark, often violent, and folklorish elements of those tales. What makes these stories unique, however, is the subject matter. Each fairy tale tells a completely new story rather than a retelling of a traditional fairy tale, presenting characters and situations that mirror what children may experience as they grow up, allowing them to see a reflection of themselves in the fiction they read. Female empowerment, same-sex relationships, and mental illness are some of the topics portrayed in these modern day fairy tales.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Madeleine Remi

2:30p.m.

Panakeia

Panakeia is a Fantasy YA novel that examines the effects of trauma on a young woman grappling with loss, identity, and her own lack of mortality. In the wake of an unexpected tragedy, Wren is thrust into an isolated boarding school for exceptional students that pulls her far away from home. But the questions she tried to leave behind have a way of catching up to her. She can no longer neglect the ways in which she may be special, or avoid the horrors that her ignorance has already caused.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Carlyn Greenwald

3:00p.m.

Five Over the Speed Limit:

A feminist crime novel

Told in the 12 hours following a botched heist, a young female getaway driver attempts to save her crew's lives when they accidentally jack a car with a sleeping child inside. The story is told through the seldom seen point of view of a woman, and specifically subverts tropes of women as solely victims of violent crime. Every female character in the story has agency, and explores the complexities of a deeply flawed but still sympathetic anti-heroine.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Kitty O'Connor

3:30p.m.

My Attempt To Write a Play

This is quite literally my first attempt at writing a play. Instead of creating a fictional world, however, I was inspired by personal events. "My First Attempt at Writing a Play" explores the world of Kitty O'Connor, a fourteen year old girl navigating her move from the English Countryside to Brentwood, Los Angeles. The form of the narrative is a one-woman play that employs the use of specific lighting and sound cues. It deals with themes of identity, place, acclimation, culture, family, and anxiety.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Tuesday, April 17

Clay Kim

10:00a.m.

LA Riots: The Immigrant Side

Through both a written portion and a short documentary consisting of real life accounts, Korean American immigrants who lived through the LA riots will be able to share their stories and how they were affected by the riots. Many came to America with romanticized ideas of bright futures and opportunities; they were shocked to be met with a rude awakening that LA wasn't all that they had hoped to be.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Miranda Mazariegos

10:30a.m.

Brainstorms

Inspired by Virginia Woolf's belief that the mind should be a subject for the arts and not the sciences, this collection of short stories explores the relationship between mental illness and creativity without falling into the myth of the "tortured genius." A suicidal poet, an anorexic actress, an anxious singer and a depressive designer teach us that, although mutually exclusive, madness and genius can coexist to create inspiring, beautiful and healing art.

SUPERVISOR:

Dana Johnson

Danyal Brink

11:10a.m.

Underground Roots

Utilizing histories and interviews surrounding the biggest brands in the “by the fan for the fan” merchandise world, Underground Roots brings to light the biggest success stories in this field, Barstool Sports and The 7 Line, and asks what are the ethics behind stealing other companies’ content for your own monetary gain. It will compare these narratives with those of brands who attempted a similar product but found a worse end. This will additionally feature a visual component, using PowerPoint and actual merchandise to more concretely show the instances of trademark and copyright infringement.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Jamie Rifkin

11:40a.m.

Unsettled

Unsettled is a multi-media project that investigates and exposes the prominent issue of sexual assault on college campuses. Through research, interview, and short story, and poetry, this narrative will pull back the curtain on sexual mistreatment and the system that perpetuates it. It will give a voice to those impacted by sexual assault and will lend insight and possible solutions to this enormous and far-reaching issue.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Madelin Lum

2:00p.m.

Betwixt & Between

Betwixt & Between is a memoir that explores questions of identity and liminality for a person on the threshold of a great change, graduation from USC. The form of this project draws inspiration from the memoirs of Nick Flynn (*The Ticking is The Bomb* and *The Reenactments*) and Mindy Kaling (*Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*). It is a collection of long and short form comedic essays, with illustrations placed throughout.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Dilyara Castro

2:30p.m.

The Stories We Tell . . .

It is a research-memoir about adoption narratives, where I explore the shifts in narration between the adopted child and the adoptive parents. My interest in the topic of adoption stems from my own personal story of being adopted, and I delve further into that facet of myself by interviewing my adoptive parents and comparing it to how I remember my adoption.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Casey McAlary

3:00p.m.

She and I:

Echoing the Poetry of Elizabeth Bishop

This project will facilitate a dialogue between the works of Elizabeth Bishop (specifically *Geography III*) and my own poetry regarding personal travel experiences. A modern twist on the poetic form will be applied to this capstone, which will be accomplished through the use of modern language and digital media - specifically Instagram. Four of Bishop's poems will be analyzed, replicated and presented on Instagram with the hope of engaging in a debate regarding imitation and impersonation.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Gabriela Fernandez

3:30p.m.

Manos Trabajadoras:

Workers' Hands

This multimedia work showcases four housekeepers' hands. By clicking on each portrait of their hands, one will be able to read about that specific housekeeper's journey to the U.S. and their experience as a low-wage worker in Los Angeles through text and audio.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Aly Ferguson

4:00p.m.

The Geology of Me

Tectonic plates come together to create mountains. The influence of a person's friends and family on them collides to create who they are as an individual. A person's landscape can be defined by their relationships to the people in their life, especially those who they have chosen to be a part of their family. This collection of vignettes explores the geology of a person and how they have been impacted by three specific people in their life.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Wednesday, April 18

Ossy Chandiyana

10:00a.m.

How to Make a Good Thing Last // My Brother's Keeper

An intimate collection of interweaved prose and poetry juxtaposed with real-life social media content of the author's past two years transitioning from his local suburban community college to a private University in the center of the city, through the growth and dissolution of his two closest relationships at the time: his girlfriend and best friend.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Cal Moreno

10:30a.m.

Stalling

Liminality-neither here nor there. By looking through a psychological lens, the research narrative Stalling seeks to explore the liminality of chronic autoimmune disorders, specifically Crohn's Disease. In turn, this research will bridge the gap between fact and fiction in a series of short stories about how chronic conditions enter our world, inspired by mythological trickster figures and graffiti found inside bathroom stalls.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Miles Woods

11:00a.m.

Infinite Jest:

A Three Act Play

My capstone will distill the postmodernist novel *Infinite Jest* into a three act play, the content of which will not only defer to the inceptive source material of *Infinite Jest*, being *Hamlet*, but also incorporate D.F. Wallace's iconoclastic and oft satirical themes on the corrosive nature of pop culture, the banality of modern life, and the omnipresence of corporate sterility in our society. In order to adequately accomplish these ends, I intend to reflect not only the genesis of the protagonist, Hamlet, through his analog Hal Incandenza, but also explore certain modern iterations of *Infinite Jest's* themes and values.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Tillie Clower

11:30a.m.

The Purpose of Stream of Consciousness as a Narrative Mode as Shown Through Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life*

The essence of stream of consciousness as a narrative mode is to convey the true embodiment of the human subconscious and the human identity as a whole within the larger universe. Contemplating humans' place within the cosmos has long been a driving force in the making of a narrative, its medium shifting depending on the time period of its creation. I will be focusing specifically on the philosophical and psychological beliefs of Virginia Woolf and Terrence Malick, as well as the specific characteristics of their implementation of stream of consciousness within the novel *Mrs. Dalloway* and film *The Tree of Life*. Using these two examples, I will examine how stream of consciousness as a narrative mode in art can be used to breach the isolation and fabrication of our own perceptions of space and time as defined in the psychological definition of The Stream of Consciousness.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Camilla Revah

2:00p.m.

It's All in the Genes

Chronicling the stark contrasts in my life from one side of my family to the other, this project explores the shaping of identity. A series of short stories centered around the merging of Moroccan and English cultures, it recalls different events in the life of the protagonist, a first-generation American girl. Utilizing unique anecdotes, the project explores ways in which family and culture shape individual perceptions and notions of “self.” When my father arrived in America, his first business was a denim company. This explains my title: It's All in the Genes.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Michael Savio

2:30p.m.

Make America Laugh Again:

The Role Humor Played In The Election of President Donald J. Trump

By analyzing and evaluating some of the various comedic techniques that both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton themselves used on the campaign trail, I've developed a criteria for how humor can benefit or hinder a politician's public appeal. Not only will this add to the narrative behind how Donald Trump became the President of the United States of America, it will also pose the question: what role does humor play in our democracy as a whole?

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Maggie Myers

3:00p.m.

Title Not Available

Description not available.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Melody Esqueda

3:30p.m.

Dancing With Our
Ancestors:

A Chicano Perspective

Dancing With Our Ancestors: A Chicano Perspective is a multi-format literary approach exploring how dance functions as a form of political resistance and representation for Chicano youth. A research-based expository essay, vignettes, and short poems are composed in an attempt to capture the experiences of Chicano youth that have participated in Danza Azteca and Baile Folklorokio throughout their lives, and explore what role dance plays in terms of identity, cultural preservation, and representation.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Everton Rocca

4:00p.m.

The Shield and Mask Society

“The Shield and Mask Society” is a superhero YA novel with comic-style illustrations embedded throughout the text. The novel follows Jasper Matsumoto, an intellectual teenage girl with Asperger’s, as she navigates the complicated world of an elite boarding school while also coming to terms with her burgeoning psychic abilities and a secret society of superhumans that she discovers training at her school.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Thursday, April 19

Alyssa Rubio

10:00a.m.

The Psychology of Home:

Finding the meaning behind the concept of “home”

While the proverb “Home is where the heart is” is commonly used, what does that phrase really mean? The Psychology of Home seeks to find the answers to the emotionally-charged question: “What does home mean to you?” Through a series of interviews and anecdotes of four different individuals, the meaning of home is discovered by looking into concepts of family, culture, and places of opportunity.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Alexcea Matthews

10:30a.m.

Monster Hunting:

Looking for the Psychopathic Mind in American Narrative and Neuroscience

There have been endless movies, books, articles and TV shows that seek to answer the fundamental question of why humans kill other humans without remorse. This capstone will not attempt to answer such a complex question. Rather, it will analyze the narratives that surround the fictionalized counterparts of these violent psychopaths. Specifically, the sympathetic and simplistic story lines that seem to build their characters.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Joyce Chun

2:00p.m.

Then and Now:

Korean Immigrant Experiences

In hopes of exploring the Korean American narrative, this project investigates the immigrant experience as exposed through current events and two personal accounts in the form of video interviews. These personal narratives are derived from different generation immigrants as they share their ups and downs acclimating to the American lifestyle. It also discusses the similarities in narratives despite the differences each individual holds.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Hallie Martin

2:30p.m.

The Lives of Pablo:

Studying the Concept of “Celebrity” Through Kanye West

My capstone project studies and presents the conscious formation of a “celebrity persona” via one of this generation’s most controversial, unpredictable, and (in my opinion) talented artists: Kanye West. In studying the history of the concepts of fame, celebrity, and pop culture, as well as close reading West’s canon and evaluating his personal life, I plan to create a series of brief podcasts that focus in on either specific songs or specific tropes that form his celebrity’s narrative arc.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Napoleon Martinez

3:00p.m.

Jidouhanbaiki:

Viewing Japanese Vending Machine Culture Through Cross-Cultural Interactive Narrative

In interactive game narrative, there is much work already on creating frameworks around pre-existing narrative structures, particularly those of the Western cinematic and literary traditions. This paper explores the principles of narrative design nestled within written and game literature of one of the largest contributors to the game industry, Japan. In addition, it will examine past work that has, or is currently attempting to, develop derivative narratives from past Japanese artifacts. For a number of reasons, these works have differing socio-cultural values, origins, and narrative structures. The hope of this project is to analyze these narratives in order to derive a framework for creating cross-cultural interactive fiction which combines the game design philosophies as taught in the School of Cinematics Arts, with the narrative architecture of Japanese storytelling in a way that purports the benefits of cross-cultural inspiration and creative production. This framework will serve as a guiding direction in my career as I attempt to apply it towards housing a variety of game projects, the first of which being a game project focused on highlighting the vending machine culture of Japan and providing a lens to view the framework through.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Whitney Levine

3:30p.m.

Understanding the Shoah through the Second Generation:

The Second Generation serves as active bearers of the Holocaust

What will happen when the first hand accounts of the Shoah disappear? The Second Generation, the children of survivors, serve as active bearers of their parents' story. Through the accounts they've heard, they pass along a dense legacy in addition to having been shaped by these memories over their lifetime. With the exploration of their second-hand accounts through interview, it is necessary to try to understand the incomprehensible - the tragedies and stories of their parents and the effects it has had on the Second Generation.

SUPERVISOR:

Mark Irwin

Friday, April 20

Joseph Scavone

10:00a.m.

How Do You Want To Do This?:

Building and Exploring Narrative Through Dungeons & Dragons

The purpose of the project is to explore how the dynamics of narrative are affected when the reader/writer relationship is changed. Specifically, what happens when readers exchange their passive role of bearing witness to the story for a wholly interactive role in the story itself? This is made possible through the unique storytelling medium that is Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson's "Dungeons & Dragons" (D&D) game. The project's format breaks into 3 major parts: A short paper (5-6 pages) contextualizing D&D and its incorporation into the project; A creative project in the form of an original D&D "Campaign" (explained in contextual paper); and recorded info on two instances of said campaign being played by a group of 10 SC students.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Claire Potter

10:30a.m.

Echo:

Art in Los Angeles

An exercise in ekphrasis, following the works of Los Angeles based artists, who have both shaped and been shaped by the city of Los Angeles.

SUPERVISOR:

Chris Freeman

Nicholas Hudson

11:00a.m.

Civil War Monuments as Voices and Rememberers in the American Narrative

This project, in the form of a research paper, will examine processes of collective remembering as they work within the United States. Exploring how memory and history interplay, the paper will focus on the narrative perpetuated by monuments around the nation that commemorate the Confederacy and the cause for “Southern Independence,” and how such narrativity functions as a tool to direct the nature and character of this nation as a whole.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Zachary McLane

11:30a.m.

Memories of Imag(in)ing: Towards a Theory of GIFs

GIFs are drawn entirely from larger narratives and simultaneously hold meaning entirely outside these original contexts. Using GIFs, this project asks the question: how do we remember, misremember, and reconstruct narratives? Through an essay and supplemental GIFs, the project explores the ways that narrative fragments suggest a complete whole and the ways that these looping moments can hold meaning without having a stable origin.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Olivia Connolly

2:00p.m.

Clarke Creek, Kentucky

Clarke Creek, Kentucky is a novel about a small town in the early 2000s. The story focuses on the intricate relationships of a town tainted by envy, gossip, and judgment. The novel follows Clarke Creek's obsession with the wealthy Ames family. The story brings to light the depths of the town's interest in the Ames family during the tragic death of an Ames child. This writing project was inspired by the Southern Gothic style of Flannery O'Connor. The story touches on themes of mental health, social standing, and intergenerational family dynamics.

SUPERVISOR:

Brian Ingram

Cassandra Kessler

2:30p.m.

Accepted Realities:

How Narrative Normalizes the Absurd in Kafka's *The Trial*

Reality as we know it has no objective truths or absolute certainties. Rather, what we accept as reality is merely an interpretation of the outside world. When Kafka's heroes are presented with irrational obstacles and unjustified challenges, they insert the unreality into their interpretation of the world and thus normalize the illogical as reality. *Accepted Realities* explores how Kafka's form, style, and narration in *The Trial* renders normal the absurdity of Joseph K.'s world, reflecting the fraught anxiety of the modern age.

SUPERVISOR:

John Carlos Rowe

Victor Koech

3:00p.m.

The Art of the Graphic Novel:

The evolution of literary narrative and its use of visual imagery as a universal language

An analysis of graphic novels as narratives that thread the line between literary and visual storytelling. Graphic novels use sequential art accompanied by words that provide meaning while literary novels rely solely on a sequence of words to create meaning in a story. A comparison between various graphic novels and works of literature will not only allow us to highlight the strongest elements of narrative but also possibly give insight to how we can tell the most engaging and influential stories regardless of their visual and/or literary medium.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

Sarah Shaffer

3:30p.m.

Counting the Stars:

Creating Communication in Education Through Narrative

This collection of short stories, essays, and poems explores the world of education through the eyes of an imagined teacher-student duo. Inspired by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*, these narratives draw on observation, experience, and everyday wonder to move toward understanding between two characters who might as well be from different planets.

SUPERVISOR:

Lawrence Green

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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With special thanks to our former
adviser, Tim Gotimer, for guiding
many of the students.

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