

# NARRATIVE STUDIES CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 2, 2019 | THH 420

## Monday, December 2

11:30a.m.	Julie Yang	"UNTITLED"
12:00p.m.	Bryan Guzman	Born Again King: Kendrick Lamar as a Modern Day Prophet
12:30p.m.	Sarah Libby	I AM
1:00p.m.	Sidney Jaet	Carbon Animals
1:30p.m.	Gabriella Mangano	A Journey of Time and Space
2:00p.m.	Megan Ritchie	Moving West
2:30p.m.	Lauren Foley	The Show Must Go On
3:00p.m.	Jocelyn Cortez	The American Dream
3:30p.m.	Kyleen Hengelhaupt	Blisters: Bound to Burst
4:00p.m.	Beatriz Jacob	Title Not Available

## **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 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**, and the research librarians at **USC LIBRARIES** for their generous support in guiding our students to complete their capstone projects.

# Monday, December 2

Julie Yang

11:30 a.m.

---

## "UNTITLED"

My capstone project entails my experimentation with the narrative construct of a novel through the creative process of my own piece. Inspired by Homer's *The Odyssey*, I too chose to break away from the traditional beginning-middle-end format and start the story in medias res. This begs the question of how to drive the plot towards the real climax without revealing too much information in the beginning, but just enough so the reader is not lost. The critical component of my project consists of explanations of the challenges I encountered while making decisions for plot, setting, point of view, and character representation. I titled this UNTITLED, because the project focuses on the creative process of constructing the novel rather than the finished piece.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

Bryan Guzman

12:00 p.m.

---

## Born Again King:

### Kendrick Lamar as a Modern Day Prophet

Over the course of 3 albums, Kendrick Lamar crafts a narrative that touches upon survivor's guilt, systemic racism, peer pressure, and religion. As he creates this narrative, he likens himself to a prophet of God - a title that is earned as he chronicles his own struggles in Compton, CA. In this presentation, I demonstrate how he crafts this narrative lyrically, in which he goes through hell and back, returns to Compton a greater man, and hopes to free his community with his message of love and forgiveness.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Sarah Libby

12:30 p.m.

---

## I Am

My project is motivated by a simple question: “What Are You?” Often when encountering a new person, we ask ourselves what that person is. Are they Female? Are they Black? Are they Jewish? Are they Smart? Or perhaps, we ask ourselves, “What are they not?” They are Not From Here. They are Not White. They are Not Short. They are Not Outgoing. These are all ways for us to quickly situate this person or group of people into a framework that we understand, ways for us to pretend like we know who a person is or group of people are without trying to understand who that person or group actually is. Through interviews of USC students, I have sought to create ethnographic portraits—a complete portrait consisting of a visual and written component—of the USC student that instead explores and empathizes with who that person is as opposed to what we think they are.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Sidney Jaet

1:00 p.m.

---

## Carbon Animals

Told from the perspective of an eight year old girl, “Carbon Animals” is a series of short stories that follow the life of two sisters and their respective families. Adele tries to maintain her family united, only causing it to disintegrate further and in an explosive manner. On the other hand, Dalia willingly dismantles her family yet is able to shield her children from the aftershock. These are stories of contrasting circumstances told by an imaginative and observant narrator. But more importantly, they are a meditation on where we come from and where we are going.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Gabriella Mangano

1:30 p.m.

---

## A Journey of Time and Space

A collection of fictional short stories centering around the exploration of how narrative is able to move through time, space, and the universe.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Megan Ritchie

2:00 p.m.

---

## Moving West

The California landscape—even now the wild west, with its miles of farmland, rugged coastline, and booming valley—symbolizes an unconquered frontier, while the variety of the landscape itself represents the diverse opportunities available to those who come here. This is, at least, the imagined California. But living in the heart of both Silicon Valley and Los Angeles has shown me that the opportunities California presents are often predicated on sharp class, gender, and racial divisions; the illusion of a progressive state is often dispelled on further examination. In response, I've created a short story collection comprised of ten total stories, some as short as two pages, some as long as twenty, each varying in point of view, narrative style, setting, etc. The collection works twofold: firstly, to problematize the mythologies surrounding the West Coast, with an emphasis on iconography, and secondly, as an experimentation in narrative mode.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Lauren Foley

2:30 p.m.

---

## The Show Must Go On

*The Show Must Go On* is a comedic play inspired by and tonally resonant of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *As You Like It*. It follows Cecilia, who's given the ultimatum of a lifetime when her famous, identical twin sister disappears, forcing her to choose between taking her sister's place or letting her lose the best gig she's ever had.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Jocelyn Cortez

3:00 p.m.

---

## The American Dream

My capstone project focuses on both the immigrant story and the experience that people of color face in America. Specifically focusing on Latinos and Asians, migrants have come to the United States for a better life and more opportunities. Through courses taken in Narrative Studies, I have come to appreciate the immigrant narrative.

**SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Kyleen Hengelhaupt

3:30 p.m.

---

## Blisters:

### Bound to Burst

A multimedia experimental exploration of storytelling by connecting foreground and background elements of a story about a young girl navigating two complicated relationships and their toll on her mental state.

#### **SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green

# Beatriz Jacob

4:00 p.m.

---

## *The Violet Court:*

### Sociological Intersections in a Fantasy Universe

*The Violet Court* is a dual-POV novel that explores the interactions of two young women from different worlds, cultures and species, as one of them stumbles upon a mythical item that changes the foundation of who she is—both physically and psychologically. In it, I examine the ways in which societies are built—through their mythologies, landscapes, governments and more—as well as how these societies influence those that live within them. While these characters must face the overarching plot conflict, they must also overcome the sociological obstacles of their respective cultures—ones I attempt to make analogous to those of modern day. Through this, I ask: In life and in fiction, how do the ways that our societies see us shape who we become?

#### **SUPERVISOR:**

Lawrence Green





# Index

**Yang**, Julie (p. 4)

**Guzman**, Bryan (p. 4)

**Libby**, Sarah (p. 5)

**Jaet**, Sidney (p. 5)

**Mangano**, Gabriella (p. 6)

**Ritchie**, Megan (p. 6)

**Foley**, Lauren (p. 7)

**Cortez**, Jocelyn (p. 7)

**Hengelhaupt**, Kyleen (p. 8)

**Jacob**, Beatriz (p. 8)

## 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

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

**USC**  
**Dornsife**  
*Department of*  
*English*

**CONNECT WITH US**

 [@usc\\_english](https://www.instagram.com/usc_english)

 [@usc\\_english](https://twitter.com/usc_english)

 [/DornsifeEnglish](https://www.facebook.com/DornsifeEnglish)

 [dornsife.usc.edu/engl](https://dornsife.usc.edu/engl)