American Studies Honors Theses

Last update: October 2012

2012

“Our Living, Black [Queer?] Manhood”: MalcomX, Bayard Rustin, and The State of Homophobia in Black Communities
Dell Otto, Allison

Marker’s of Apathy: The Devaluation of African Americans in Saratoga Springs
Lazell, Kathryn

Obama’s Ballers: A Study of Color-Blind Racism and Relations in the NBA
Wolf, Jacob

King of the Movement: Location, History, and Memory at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN and the National Mall in Washington, DC
Stratton, Callison

2011

“Tell Me What you Eat and I Will Tell You What You Are”: Food and Identity in America
Williams, Brooke 2011

Policy Regarding Sexual Assault on America’s College Campuses: A Case Study of Skidmore College
Straim, Eliza 2011

“Managing Diversity” in Corporate and Higher Education Institutions
Finkel, Suzanne 2011

Boomers, Millennials, and the Politics of Generational Identity
Fariello, Elise 2011

2010

The Presence of Song: Constructing Musical Memoirs
Solomon, Claire 2010

Illusion of Change: The Inability of Social Movements to Deconstruct America’s Sexual Norms
Striker, Gemma 2010

2009

A Sense of Place in Fishtown: Why Understanding Place Becomes Important to Development, Using the Specific Example of Gloucester, Massachusetts
Bianchini, Charlee, 2009
Conflict and Continuity: Reform Judaism Responds to American Culture From 1869-2009
Magida, Sarah 2009

2008

Long Fight to Freedom: two Struggles for Civil Rights and How Time Brought South African Apartheid into the American Consciousness
Lu, Meredith, 2008

America as a Culture of Health Extremes and the Lost Middle: A Look at Obesity in Children, Eating Disorders in Adolescents, and a Lost Middle Ground
Schneider, Kacey, 2008

“Forgive Us Our Sins:” Public Historians, American Memory, and the Conversion of the Slaves
von Glahn, Carrie, 2008

2007

If You Build It, They Will Come: Professional Sports Franchise Relocation in Baltimore and Cleveland
Lauren, Joshua, 2007

Identity Crisis: Comic Books and American Culture, 1945-1963
Bentley, Daniel W., 2007

On Pushing and Pulling: The U.S.-Mexican War 1846-1848
Mitchell, Sarah Peck, 2007

2006

Looking Back in Order to Move Forward: The Role of History in Answering the Abortion Debate
Bannon, Caitlin, 2006

The Vilification of Henry Wirz: Two Creative Nonfiction Approaches to a Controversial Question
Clark, Jacquelyn, 2006

Save Our Monument: The Story of a Ten Commandments Memorial in a Minnesota Town... And the Future of Religious Edifices on American Public Land
Field, Jeffrey, 2006

2005

The Warren Store: The Business of Preservation or the Preservation of Business
Garvin, Alyssa, 2005

Robotic Presidents: Disney’s Representation of America’s Past Through the Hall of Presidents and the American Adventure
Helmstetter, Kristen, 2005
Serena Williams: Dominating the Court and the Culture
Irving, Shanley, 2005

Literature and Identity: A Study of Yekl and Jasmine Through the Lens of Double Consciousness
Klemcyk, Erin, 2005

“...But I know I’m Not American,” The Uncertain Canadian Identity and the Threat of American Popular Culture
Morton-Ranney, Kaitlin, 2005

American and the Spanish Civil War: A Study of Events, Impact and Historical Memory of the Spanish Civil War from an American Perspective
Robb, Sean, 2005

2004

A Second Chance at History: Deconstructing the Recent Phenomenon of Historical Re-enacting
Doherty, Lauren, 2004

Jewish Muscle: The American Israel Public Affairs Committee and Norman Mailer in Post-World War II America
Morgan, Ross, 2004

Pinning His Hopes on Her: Paradoxical Portrayals of the American Feminine Ideal in 1940s Visual Culture
Williams, Megan, 2004

2003

Women as Athletes: Compromises Made by the Media
Depoian, Carolyn, 2003

Eleanor and Jackie: The Different Roles of First Ladies
Hill, Bronwen, 2003

Supersized Kids: Childhood Obesity in America
Nathan, Jennifer, 2003

Ironic Innocence: Reconstruction Through the Eyes of Winslow Homer
Reynolds, Alexis, 2003

2002

The Band—Pioneers of American Mythology
Colangelo, Joanna, 2002
The Effects of Terrorism on American Society:  1916-2002
Knopp, Hilary, 2002

Pretty in Pink: Barbie as an American Icon
McLaughlin, Abbie, 2002

To Serve is to Rule: The Episcopal Schools and the American Aristocracy
Seifert, Erica, 2002

2001

Build It and They Will Come: Nehemiah Resurrects East New York, Brooklyn, , Race, Class and Home Ownership
Rodriguez, Zunilda, 2001

Opposing Policy, similar Mentality:  A Critical Examination of the Capital Punishment Policies in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania
Palmunen, Eileen, 2001

Tell Me Sweet Little Lies: The Sugar-Coated, Junk Food Version of United States History Taught to American Youth
Mack, Genevieve A., 2001

It's Not Easy Being Green: The Difficulties of Third Party Participation in American Politics
Yesnowitz, Joshua C., 2001

White Trash Chic: The Creation, Perpetuation, and role of Poor Rural Southerners in American Culture
Waldrop, Lucy, 2001

A Voluntary Examination of Herbert Hoover: A Study in Rhetoric, Reputation and Revisionism
Berenson, Lauren H., 2001

2000

Manufactured for the Trade (Senior Thesis and Honors Project)

Book I: From Work to Play: A Case Study of Nantucket Island’s Uniqueness (1999)

Dunbar, Kenneth C., 1999/2000

Jane Addams and the Founding of Hull House: Remembrances of the 1960s
Kupfer, Allison, 2000
‘As American As Apple Pie’: A Study of Women Offenders in Contemporary American Society
Swormstedt, Abby D., 1999/2000

Remembering Benedict Arnold
Varley, Bryn Alwyn, 2000

1999

The Maintenance and Negotiation of Traditional Characteristics of Individualism in Contemporary American Society: A Case Study of Bike Messengers
Coleman, Christy L., 1999

Baseball, The Game That Makes You Say: “Hey, Remember When…”
Greeney, Rich, 1999

Sail, Steam, and Rail: An Adventure in American Transportation - The Life of Captain David Sherman Babcock
Huckel, Margaret Babcock Sills, 1999

American Indian Human Remains: The Contemporary Archaeological Issue
Kuns, Erin Elizabeth, 1999

Preserving Ethnic Identity: French Canadian Culture in Winooski, Vermont
Senator, Krista, 1999

1997

Saratoga's High Rock: The Recovery of Meaning- A Virtual Exploration in Archaeology
Abodeely, Jackie, 1997

Home Sweet Home: A New Approach to Understanding American Slavery: Eastern Virginia Vernacular Architecture as a Case Study
Hapeman, Mindy, 1997

1996

Ladies, There's A War On! Issues, Opportunities, and Responsibilities for Women During World War II
Bouley, Marcy, 1996

The Shaping of Clay and Culture: America in the 1940s Through 1960s
Kambas, William, Spring 1996

“A Place Remote and Islanded”: Boundaries, Landscapes, and Community in the Lives and Fiction of Sarah Orne Jewett and Willa Cather
Northrop, Karen, 1996
Walker Evans. A Documentary Photographer
Safer, Tamar, 1996

1995

Wonder Women of the 1930s: Shirley Temple, Judy Garland, and Ginger Rogers
Brynteson, Rebecca, 1995

This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land: The History of Regional Loyalties and Sectional Biases in American Historiography
VanRy, Blaine J., 1995

1994

From Heathen to Hero: The Changing Image of the Chinese in the American Mind
Ahluwalia, Samita, 1994

Telling Their Own Stories: Sioux Literature in the Twentieth Century
Ellis, Michael, 1994

Boasian Anthropologists: Zora Neale Hurston and Ruth Murray Underhill
Gibbons, Julie Anne, 1994

The Frontier Dichotomy Circa 1939
Goddard, Seth, 1994

Circles of Reform: A Comparison of Prison Reform Efforts in the 1870s and 1970s
Lanfranco, Jennifer, 1994

1993

Should I Let Him? The Government of Female Sexuality in the 1950s
Cahn, Alessandra Lee, 1993

Appomattox Courthouse and the End of the Civil War
Marino, Tara, May 1993

Massachusetts Moves the Mountain: The History of the Hoosac Tunnel
O’Connell, Shaun P., 1993

Idealism vs. Convention: The Successes and Failures of Feminism, Gender Relations, and the Family in Nineteenth Century Utopian Communities
Ruff, Jennifer K., Spring 1993

Nostalgia Through a "Rose-Colored" Lens? Films of the 1980's That Are Nostalgic About the 1950's
Savage, Whitney A., 1993
The African-American Muslim Movement in the Correctional Facilities of the United States  
Steedman, Peter, Spring 1993

Eleanor Roosevelt: The Development of Her Philosophy Towards Youth and Her Unfailing Defense of the American Youth Congress, 1936-1940  
Vigliotti, Christine L., 1993

1992

The Media's Response to the Nominations of Thurgood Marshall (1967) and Clarence Thomas (1991) to the Supreme Court  
Douet, Candace A., 1992

"Blind Truth": The Kefauver Investigations and Their Impact on Gambling in Saratoga Springs  
Meystre, Eric Q., 1992

1991

John F. Kennedy and Civil Rights: Tensions Between Morality and Politics  
Brown, Jennifer, 1991

Bridging the Gap: ERA and Women's Perceptions  
Lorrey, Haidee, 1991

A Study of Attitudes of Northeastern American Liberals Toward Blacks as Reflected in Popular Periodical Literature: 1870-1899  
Madden, Michelle K., Spring 1991

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A Historiography of JFK and His Family, 1960-Present  
Larson, Adam, Fall 1990

1989

The Historic Preservation Movement in Saratoga Springs  
Hagearty, Maura, 1989

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America, Germany and the Holocaust  
Land, Robert C., 1988

1987
Northern Attitudes Towards Miscegenation During Reconstruction  
Douglas, Catherine L., Fall 1987

American Spoils System: Evolution to Reform (1789-1883)  
McGee, Penelope Anne, Fall 1987

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Feminine Virtues: A Study of Southern Women in the Nineteenth Century  
Gardner, Diane S., 1986

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Lee Iacocca as an American Hero  
Cook, Terrill P., 1985

Women in the Civil War: The Different Roles, Contributions, and Experiences of Women from the North and Women from the South  
Hartland, Heather Anne, Fall 1985

The Birth or Death of a Handicapped Newborn: Who Should Decide?  
Helfgott, Michele Lia, 1985

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The Role of Black Women in the Blues  
Bogart, Lisa, Fall 1984

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Dolls: A Reflection of American Culture 1850-1982  
Davids, Amy J., 1983

Violence in the West and the Outlaw Myth: A New Approach  
Edler, Chris, 1983

A Look at the Portrayal of the American Family on Television Sitcoms from 1950 to 1982  
Hood, Martha Blagdon, 1983

Israel on the Air: American Cultural Perceptions of Israel on Television  
Pyne, Lucinda J., 1983

Battling Battered Women and the Bomb: Reform Tactics of the 1980's  
Stolz, Margaret, 1983

DOCUMENT IS MISSING, NOTED MARCH 20, 2000
Sylvia Plath, Adrienne Rich, Anne Sexton, Frank O’Hara, Kenneth Koch and John Ashbery -- A Collective Biography of the Early Years
Whittle, Marcia, 1983

1982

A Cultural Analysis of Slave Spirituals
Borish, Linda, 1982

Evolution of the Older American 1620-1920
Harlow, Jane Jewett, 1982

A History of America’s Approach to Nature
Marmion, Sarah Hayes, 1982

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The Confederate States of America and Viet Nam: Experience with Foreign Power Intervention
Adkins, Paulette W., 1980

American Studies Curriculum for High School Students: Selected Special Projects Pertaining to the 1960's
Flight, Ellen M., 1980

The Study of Four American Folk Traditions-Past and Present
Gray, Carol, 1980

A Psychobiography: Three Generation of Lees
Lee, Tracy H., 1980

Grace Above the Law: A History of the Antinomian Impulse
Macurdy, Anne Catherine, 1980

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Savagery and Self-Reliance: Views of the Indian and Wild in Emerson and Whitman
Fradin, Charles, Jan. 1979

Women and Hydropathy in 19th Century America
Harden, Lisa E., 1979

The Plight of the Virginia Quakers: Persecution Under Governor William Berkeley, 1660-1677
Jones, Carter, 1979

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Children's Mechanical Toys: An Analysis of Their Popularity 1880-1914
Kessler, Nancy L., 1978
Allen Bakke v. The Regents of the University of California: A Case of Affirmative Action or Reverse Discrimination?
Koppel, Anita, 1978

The Political Machine in 19th and 20th Century Urban America
Mogul, Stacy, 1978

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The Development of the Character of a Suburban Community: Loudonville and Newtonville
Ruch, Barbara, 1977

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The Quest for Self in Modern Psychology and Literature
DiBella, Heather Holland, Jan. 1976

"Tempo di Rag": American Popular Culture and Ragtime, 1897-1917
Gibson, Sandra Jean, 1976

Prisons for the Imprisoned Sex
Lynch, Ellen, 1976

The Myths and Realities of a Southern City: Birmingham, Alabama 1871-1921, 1961-1975
Nunn, Barbara Anita, Jan. 1976

The Birth Control Movement in Early Twentieth Century America: A Woman's Issue?
Walker, Sharon, Jan. 1976

1975

Portrait of a House: An Historical Analysis of Guy Park 1766-1860
Caldes, Sara, 1975

Maple Avenue, Saratoga Springs, New York, 1870-1930
Handy, Barbara, 1975

The Status of Women in Nineteenth Century Utopian America
Jones, Maureen 1975

The Fear of Failure as a Motivating Force Toward Success as Seen Through the Novels of Theodore Dreiser
Keller, Susan Jane, 1975

A Study of Short Stories in Good Housekeeping 1920-1929 and 1950-1959 as They Relate to Betty Friedan's "Happy Housewife Heroine" Thesis
Wesolowski, Paula, Jan. 1975
1974

*Auburn, New York, From an Ethnic Perspective*
Hemingway, Susan L., 1974

1973

*I Have Been, in the Main, A Frontier Man*
Stone, Diane J., 1973

*The Romantic Demise: The Crackup of F. Scott Fitzgerald*
Thrush, Robin Adair, 1973

1972

*The Liberalism of Adlai E. Stevenson*
Gonzalez, Lynn, 1972

*The Explosion of a Seventeenth Century Village: An Investigation of Salem*
Johnson, Cynthia A., Jan. 1972

*Walter Lippmann: The Individual and Political Society*
McConchie, Julie, 1972

1971

*The Durability of the U.S. Constitution*
Ames, Margery, 1971

*A Better Place to Live: The Alternative of New Town Planning*
Davis, Cheryl Leigh, 1971

*Parent Participation in Head Start: Its Effect upon the Poverty Cycle 1965-1971*
Feinberg, Jane, 1971

*Objectivity and Self-Expression in Journalism*
Hammond, Deborah, Jan. 1971

*The Exploration of Truth in “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”*
Vincent, Sally, 1971

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*Educating Migrant Children*
Bates, Cynthia, 1970

*Fiction and Religion Reform*
Berman, Wendy, Jan. 30, 1970
The Image of the Teacher in the American Imagination
Bowie, Barbara, Feb. 1970

The American Conservative Philosophy
Doe, Lynn M., 1970

The Prevalence of a Counter Culture in American Society: A Study of Alienated Youth and Highly Committed Youth
Kaufman, Eileen R., 1970

Urban Housing: Critical Factor in the City in Transition
Miller, Elizabeth, 1970

On Human Nature and Self Will: Reinhold Niebuhr vs. John Dewey
Pfau, Sharon, Jan. 1970

The Americaness of Andrew Wyeth
Pfau, Sheila, 1970

The Pennsylvania Gazette: Advertising as a Reflection of a Mercantile Community - Philadelphia 1735-1800
Waterbury, Christine, 1970

1969

Charter Revision in Saratoga Springs
Allen, Judith Ann, 1969

Propaganda and the American Revolution
Boyd, Ann R., 1969

Urban Renewal: A Case Study: Albany, NY
Isaacs, Maxine, 1969

Individualism in Transition
Kiley, Ann H., 1969

Downfall of a Political Boss: The Story of James W. Curley
Kimball, Emeline, Jan. 13, 1969

The 1948 Presidential Election: An Analysis of the Great Upset
Swetland, Sandra W., Jan. 13, 1969

Scandinavian-Americans: Their Political Role, 1870-1920
Thorbeck, Katherine, 1969

1968
William Faulkner's Moral Vision: A Definition Derived From Three Character Studies
Areson, Kathryn, 1968

The Quaker Attitude Toward Slavery: Radical or Conservative
Briggs, Caroline, 1968

The Drama of Innocence in Henry James
Brophy, Janice, 1968

Tradition in American Society
Chait, Suzanne, 1968

Seventeenth Century Interpretations of the Salem Witch Trials 1692-1702
Creed, Catherine Y., 1968

An Examination of the Picaresque Qualities of Three Negro Authors
Egemeier, Susan, 1968

The Political Elite of the Federal Period
Landis, Athene, 1968

The Changed Fulbright in a Changing World: His Position in 1964 and 1967
Peck, Marjory, 1968

A New Dimension of Reality: The John Birch Society’s Viewpoint
Pecker, Barbara, 1968

F. Scott Fitzgerald: Success and Failure in the Twentieth Century
Rogers, Margaret, 1968

Charles Ives and Aaron Copeland: A Study of Their Music in Twentieth Century America
Wall, Patricia, 1968

The Limitations of the Gospel of Success
Warrick, Susan, 1968

1967

Conflicting Interpretations of McCarthy and McCarthyism
Barker, Mary Ann, 1967

An Evaluation of the Good Neighbor Policy From Origins to Application
Crystal, Wendy, 1967

The Realistic Writer as the Democratic Isolate Forseen by Alexis De Tocqueville
Danzig, Doris, 1967
Hemingway and the Concept of Innocence in the 1920's
Goldin, Pamela, 1967

The Ku Klux Klan: 1915-1925
Goldman, Nancy J., 1967

Extremism in the 1964 Campaign
Harrison, Beverly D., 1967

Kennedy and the Press
Weber, Polly, 1967

Poverty of a Democratic Guilded Age
White, Sandra C., 1967

1966

"Hoss Sense" in American Humor
Cooper, Nancy Beth, 1966

The "America Letters"
Kowal, Martha, 1966

The Examination of Human Possibility: Minority Perspectives in American Literature
Nevell, Nancy B., 1966

The Changing Self-Image of the American Jew
Rosenberg, Bonnie, 1966

1965

The Denial of the Sexual Stereotype of Negroes by Contemporary Negro Novelists
Aberman, Kathie, 1965

Edenic Innocence: Robert Frost and the Literature of the 1920's
Barron, Nancy, 1965

The Nineteenth Century's Garden of Eden: The Primitive in the Nature of the West
Childs, Rosalind, 1965

The New Expression of America by William Carlos Williams and Walt Whitman
Crangle, Cathryn L., 1965

The Origin of American Political Parties as a Result of a Division of Principles During the Federalist Period
Farmer, Judith Ann, 1965
Henry A. Wallace: An American Crusader
Fraker, Margot Townsend, 1965

Is There a Continuity Between Populism and McCarthyism?
Hegeman, Sally, 1965

The Agrarian Myth: Preconceptions Mold Perceptions
Hintzpeter, Eugenie, 1965

A Study of the Concept of Community
Lenz, Lila B., 1965

Communist Designs for the Negro
Lindberg, Nancy, 1965

Opposition to the Supreme Court: Old and New
Nardelli, Andrea, 1965

The Role of Public Education in a Democratic Society: Horace Mann and John Dewey
Roop, Meredith, 1965

The Bomb and the American Novel
Shapiro, Deanne, 1965

The Role of the Tennessee Valley Authority in American Society
Upham, Julie, 1965

Hamilton as Viewed by Four Historians
Wagner, Sally, 1965

1964

Walter Lippmann: A Philosopher-Journalist in the American Society
Bigelow, Nancy, 1964

McCarthy: The Man and the Moment
Hicks, Holly, March 1964

Midwest Influences: The Home and the Hero in the Work of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway
Joseph, Susan, 1964

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Pragmatist
Keating, Linda F., 1964

Origins and Application of an Aristocratic Viewpoint: H. L. Mencken and the 1920's
Morehouse, Sandra Scott, 1964
Charles De Gaulle’s Image of America 1940-1963
Pellissier, Louise, March 1964

Fiorello La Guardia: A Marginal Progressive
Ricci, Elaine, 1964

Peter Viereck, Russell Kirk, Clinton Rossiter: Contemporary Conservatives
Scott, Susan, Feb. 1964

1963

Denis Brogan's Image of Twentieth Century American
Lincoln, Barbara Jean, 1963

Louis Bromfield, Edna Ferber, and John Steinbeck and Their Relationship to the Period 1920-1960
Mackey, Christine, 1963

The Influence of the Depression Upon the View of Novelists Toward the American Dream
Ruch, Nancy Elizabeth, 1963

1962

Henry C. Simmons: A Reassessment and Reevaluation
Bentley, Barbara S., 1962

Education for Republican Responsibilities in an Historical Perspective
Garner, Gail, 1962

Alexis De Tocqueville’s and James Bryce’s Views of American Political Institutions
McGrew, Barbara, 1962

Carl Sandburg’s Image of America
Nickerson, Cassandra C., 1962

The Aristocratic Image in the South
Zagoreos, Inez, 1962

Clifford Odets, Elmer Rice, Sidney Kingsley, John Howard Lawson: The Theater of the 1930's
Zucker, Kathy, Jan. 1962

1961

The Head and Heart of John Dos Passos
Brant, Sharon, 1961

Herbert Hoover
Butcher, H. Elizabeth, Feb. 1961
John P. Marquand's View of the Individual in Twentieth Century Society
Collier, Linda, 1961

The Agrarian Myth in American Literature 1900-1949
Rogers, Sarah, Feb. 1961

John Hershey's View of Man as Seen Through His Writing
Smiley, Charlotte E., 1961

1960

Differences in Party Ideology as Shown by Congressional Voting 1945-1959
Demonet, Patricia B., 1960

Walter Lippmann: A Contemporary Foreign Policy Critic in America
Hubbard, Anne, 1960

The Development of Federalism in American Government
Jaeger, Elizabeth, 1960

Adlai B. Stevenson: A Political Leader
Penney, Susanne Lafkin, 1960

The American Tradition of Self-Determination
Smith, Priscilla A., 1960

1959

Thorstein Veblen: Economic Critic and Evolutionist
Diefendorf, Virginia, 1959

Senator Robert A. Taft: Foreign Policy and 1952 Presidential Election
Rosencrans, Janet, 1959

1958

An Analysis of Modern Conservatism of Reinhold Neibuhr
Malkary, Aydrey, May 1958