

American Studies Honors Theses

Last update: June 2021

2021

Hearing Diverse Voices: Making a More Inclusive Outdoors Culture

Julia Boral

The Museum of Trans Storytelling: Capital Region, NY

Sylas Hebert

Do Androids Dream of Dasein? Exploring Existentialism and Posthumanism in *Blade Runner* and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*

Liam Johansson

2020

(Cat)Call and Response

Eve Gertzman

The Invisible Home

Benjamin Hayes

Queering and Reimagining YA Literature

Liza Pennington

Toy Stories: Teaching Children How to be Self-Made in America

Charlotte Sweeney

Queer Teen Televisual Representations in Theory and Practice

Adam Weinreb

2019

Her Body, a Spectacle: Comediennes, Self-Deprecation, and Body Politics

Liv Fidler

Amazon.com: Monopoly or Modernizer?

Charlotte Simon

2018

Bad Apples Win: Gender, Race, and the state of Exception on post 9/11 Television

Miller Fina

Appropriation as Celebration: A New View of Remixing

Magden Gipe

Birth Justice through Birth Stories

Laila Morgan

Love & Haight in the 1960's
Jack Spiegelman

2017

From Tailgating in Happy Valley to Running with Ralphie the Buffalo: The Cultural Significance of Pregame Festivities at Penn State and CU Boulder Football Games"

Dustin Foote

Queensbridge—Stayin' Outta the Trap: What's in a (Public Housing) Community?

Gabriela Pérez

Writing, Producing, and Performing Socially Responsible Satire

Andrew Uebelein

2016

This America, Man: How the Anti-Hero Saved American Television, and Why It Can Do More

Hannah Doban

Jewish-American Identity in Film

Sophia Inkeles

Malling America: The Rise and Fall of an American Cultural Landscape

Markus Messoro

Ladies, Women, Bikers, People

Mollie Welch

2015

The Difference Among "Differents": Intersectional Thinking, the Civil Rights Movement and the Leadership of the 1963 Children's Crusade

Dan Plumer

Repurposing America's Pastime: A Study of the Off Track Thoroughbred Programs in Saratoga Springs

Brooks Robinson

2014

"Tell Them to Shut Up and Listen!": The Impact of Gay Men's Masculinity on Early AIDS Activism

Kyle Giard-Chase

Into the Gap: Collective Memory and Collective Identity in Red Sox Nation

Mack Lacy

Women Don't Recruit or Role Model: An Analysis of Women New York State Mayors

Becky Stern

Medicine and Motherhood: How Women's Roles in Healthcare have Changed from the 18th Century to the Present

Sara Vosburg

2013

2012

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

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

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

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

2011

"Tell Me What you Eat and I Will Tell You What You Are": Food and Identity in America
Brooke Williams

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

"Managing Diversity" in Corporate and Higher Education Institutions
Suzanne Finkel

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

2010

The Presence of Song: Constructing Musical Memoirs
Claire Solomon

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

2009

A Sense of Place in Fishtown: Why Understanding Place Becomes Important to Development, Using the Specific Example of Gloucester, Massachusetts
Charlee Bianchini

Conflict and Continuity: Reform Judaism Responds to American Culture From 1869-2009
Sarah Magida

2008

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

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
Kacey Schneider

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

2007

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

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

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

2006

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

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

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

2005

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

Robotic Presidents: Disney's Representation of America's Past Through the Hall of Presidents and the American Adventure
Kristen Helmstetter

Serena Williams: Dominating the Court and the Culture
Shanley Irving

Literature and Identity: A Study of Yekl and Jasmine Through the Lens of Double Consciousness
Erin Klemyk

"...But I know I'm Not American," The Uncertain Canadian Identity and the Threat of American Popular Culture
Kaitlin Morton-Ranney

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

2004

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

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

Ross Morgan

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

2003

Women as Athletes: Compromises Made by the Media
Carolyn Depoian

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

Supersized Kids: Childhood Obesity in America
Jennifer Nathan

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

2002

The Band—Pioneers of American Mythology
Joanna Colangelo

The Effects of Terrorism on American Society: 1916-2002
Hilary Knopp

Pretty in Pink: Barbie as an American Icon
Abbie McLaughlin

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

2001

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

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

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

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

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

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

2000

Manufactured for the Trade (Senior Thesis and Honors Project)

Book I: From Work to Play: A Case Study of Nantucket Island's Uniqueness

Book II: "Manufactured for the Trade": Whaling Wives, Whaling Widows and the Creation of the Tourist Industry on Nantucket Island

Kenneth C Dunbar

Jane Addams and the Founding of Hull House: Remembrances of the 1960s

Allison Kupfer

'As American As Apple Pie': A Study of Women Offenders in Contemporary American Society

Abby D. Swormstedt

Remembering Benedict Arnold

Bryn Alwyn Varley

1999

The Maintenance and Negotiation of Traditional Characteristics of Individualism in Contemporary American Society: A Case Study of Bike Messengers

Christy L Coleman

Baseball, The Game That Makes You Say: "Hey, Remember When..."

Rich Greeney

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

Margaret Babcock Sills Huckel

American Indian Human Remains: The Contemporary Archaeological Issue

Erin Elizabeth Kuns

Preserving Ethnic Identity: French Canadian Culture in Winooski, Vermont

Krista Senator

1997

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

Jackie Abodeely

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

Mindy Hapeman

1996

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

Marcy Bouley

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

“A Place Remote and Isolated”: Boundaries, Landscapes, and Community in the Lives and Fiction of Sarah Orne Jewett and Willa Cather
Karen Northrop

Walker Evans. A Documentary Photographer
Tamar Safer

1995

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

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

1994

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

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

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

The Frontier Dichotomy Circa 1939
Seth Goddard

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

1993

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

Appomattox Courthouse and the End of the Civil War
Tara Marino

Massachusetts Moves the Mountain: The History of the Hoosac Tunnel
Shaun P O'Connell

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

Nostalgia Through a "Rose-Colored" Lens? Films of the 1980's That Are Nostalgic About the 1950's
Whitney A Savage

The African-American Muslim Movement in the Correctional Facilities of the United States
Peter Steedman

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

1992

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

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

1991

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

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

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

1990

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

1989

The Historic Preservation Movement in Saratoga Springs
Maura Hagearty

1988

America, Germany and the Holocaust
Robert C. Land

1987

Northern Attitudes Towards Miscegenation During Reconstruction
Catherine L. Douglas

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

1986

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

1985

Lee Iacocca as an American Hero
Terrill P. Cook

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

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

1984

The Role of Black Women in the Blues
Lisa Bogart

1983

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

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

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

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

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

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
Marcia Whittle

1982

A Cultural Analysis of Slave Spirituals
Linda Borish

Evolution of the Older American 1620-1920
Jane Jewett Harlow

A History of America's Approach to Nature
Sarah Hayes Marmion

1980

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

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

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

A Psychobiography: Three Generation of Lees
Tracy H. Lee

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

1979

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

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

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

1978

Children's Mechanical Toys: An Analysis of Their Popularity 1880-1914
Nancy L. Kessler

Allen Bakke v. The Regents of the University of California: A Case of Affirmative Action or Reverse
Discrimination?
Anita Koppel

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

1977

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

1976

The Quest for Self in Modern Psychology and Literature
Heather Holland DiBella

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

Prisons for the Imprisoned Sex
Ellen Lynch

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

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

1975

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

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

The Status of Women in Nineteenth Century Utopian America
Maureen Jones

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

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

1974

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

1973

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

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

1972

The Liberalism of Adlai E. Stevenson
Lynn Gonzalez

The Explosion of a Seventeenth Century Village: An Investigation of Salem
Cynthia A. Johnson

Walter Lippmann: The Individual and Political Society
Julie McConchie

1971

The Durability of the U.S. Constitution
Margery Ames

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

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

Objectivity and Self-Expression in Journalism
Deborah Hammond

The Exploration of Truth in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
Sally Vincent

1970

Educating Migrant Children
Cynthia Bates

Fiction and Religion Reform
Wendy Berman

The Image of the Teacher in the American Imagination
Barbara Bowie
The American Conservative Philosophy
Lynn M. Doe

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

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

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

The Americanness of Andrew Wyeth
Sheila Pfau

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

1969

Charter Revision in Saratoga Springs

Judith Ann Allen

Propaganda and the American Revolution

Ann R. Boyd

Urban Renewal: A Case Study: Albany, NY

Maxine Isaacs

Individualism in Transition

Ann H. Kiley

Downfall of a Political Boss: The Story of James W. Curley

Emeline Kimball

The 1948 Presidential Election: An Analysis of the Great Upset

Sandra W. Swetland

Scandinavian-Americans: Their Political Role, 1870-1920

Katherine Thorbeck

1968

William Faulkner's Moral Vision: A Definition Derived From Three Character Studies

Kathryn Areson

The Quaker Attitude Toward Slavery: Radical or Conservative

Caroline Briggs

The Drama of Innocence in Henry James

Janice Brophy

Tradition in American Society

Suzanne Chait

Seventeenth Century Interpretations of the Salem Witch Trials 1692- 1702

Catherine Y. Creed

An Examination of the Picaresque Qualities of Three Negro Authors

Susan Egemeier

The Political Elite of the Federal Period

Athene Landis

The Changed Fulbright in a Changing World: His Position in 1964 and 1967

Marjory Peck

A New Dimension of Reality: The John Birch Society's Viewpoint
Barbara Pecker

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

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

The Limitations of the Gospel of Success
Susan Warrick

1967

Conflicting Interpretations of McCarthy and McCarthyism
Mary Ann Barker

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

The Realistic Writer as the Democratic Isolate Forseen by Alexis De Tocqueville
Doris Danzig

Hemingway and the Concept of Innocence in the 1920's
Pamela Goldin

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

Extremism in the 1964 Campaign
Beverly D., Harrison

Kennedy and the Press
Polly Weber

Poverty of a Democratic Guilded Age
Sandra C. White

1966

"Hoss Sense" in American Humor
Nancy Beth Cooper

The "America Letters"
Martha Kowal

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

The Changing Self-Image of the American Jew
Bonnie Rosenberg

1965

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

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

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

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

The Origin of American Political Parties as a Result of a Division of Principles During the Federalist Period
Judith Ann Farmer

Henry A. Wallace: An American Crusader
Margot Townsend Fraker

Is There a Continuity Between Populism and McCarthyism?
Sally Hegeman

The Agrarian Myth: Preconceptions Mold Perceptions
Eugenie Hintzpeter

A Study of the Concept of Community
Lila B Lenz

Communist Designs for the Negro
Nancy Lindberg

Opposition to the Supreme Court: Old and New
Andrea Nardelli

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

The Bomb and the American Novel
Deanne Shapiro

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

Hamilton as Viewed by Four Historians
Sally Wagner

1964

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

McCarthy: The Man and the Moment
Holly Hicks

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

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Pragmatist
Linda F. Keating

Origins and Application of an Aristocratic Viewpoint: H. L. Mencken and the 1920's
Sandra Scott Morehouse

Charles De Gaulle's Image of America 1940-1963
Louise Pellissier

Fiorello La Guardia: A Marginal Progressive
Elaine Ricci

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

1963

Denis Brogan's Image of Twentieth Century American
Barbara Jean Lincoln
Louis Bromfield, Edna Ferber, and John Steinbeck and Their Relationship to the Period 1920-1960
Christine Mackey

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

1962

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

Education for Republican Responsibilities in an Historical Perspective
Gail Garner

Alexis De Tocqueville's and James Bryce's Views of American Political Institutions
Barbara McGrew

Carl Sandburg's Image of America
Cassandra C. Nickerson

The Aristocratic Image in the South
Inez Zagoreos

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

1961

The Head and Heart of John Dos Passos
Sharon Brant

Herbert Hoover
H. Elizabeth Butcher

John P. Marquand's View of the Individual in Twentieth Century Society
Linda Collier

The Agrarian Myth in American Literature 1900-1949
Sarah Rogers

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

1960

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

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

The Development of Federalism in American Government
Elizabeth Jaeger

Adlai B. Stevenson: A Political Leader
Susanne Lafkin Penney

The American Tradition of Self-Determination
Priscilla A. Smith

1959

Thorstein Veblen: Economic Critic and Evolutionist
Virginia Diefendorf

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

1958

An Analysis of Modern Conservatism of Reinhold Neibuhr
Aydrey Malkary