

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Title: Mirror Image: Reflections On The Nature Of Racial Subjugation In Poe's Pym		Presentation ID: A1 – DOL 306
Author: Jennipher Ambrose	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Jonathan Murphy	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>During the early nineteenth century, the morality and necessity of slavery began to be discussed in almost all public relations, causing many antebellum Americans to comprehend the seriousness of this conflict. At the height of this contentious debate, Edgar Allan Poe published his novel The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym (1836), a tale of a young man's voyage across the sea. Through this novel, Edgar Allan Poe explores racial tensions in antebellum America. As the protagonist begins his journey across the sea confined to a holding box below a whaling ship called Grampus, his entombment on board simulates the sensations felt by captured slaves like Olaudah Equiano during the Middle Passage. The mutiny that takes place atop the Grampus, distinctly described as led by a violent, murderous black man, reflects a fear within antebellum society stemming from slave rebellions such as Nat Turner's insurrection. The Tsalalians' fear towards any white being mirrors the antebellum audience's prejudice towards blackness, a prejudice later exemplified in Herman Melville's epic novel Moby Dick. Additionally, the converse disposition of the Jane Guy crew in regards to their perception of the native islanders reveals the hypocritical nature of moral superiority held by those in support of slavery. In all of these instances, Poe conveys the white audience's perception of the black slave and undermines this impression by revealing the true nature of slave practice. In turn, Poe compels his audience to acknowledge the injustices inflicted upon the enslaved and what facing such a fearful reality entails.</p>		

Title: A Study Of Shakespeare's Richard III Through Friedrich Nietzsche's Birth Of Tragedy		Presentation ID: A2 – DOL 306
Author: Michael Cadena	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Professor William J. Nolen MA	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>A Study of Shakespeare's Richard III Through Friedrich Nietzsche's Birth of Tragedy</p> <p>William Shakespeare's Richard III was amongst the most impactful plays written by the esteemed playwright. Friedrich Nietzsche, a modernist philosopher, studied Shakespeare's works and mentions him in quite a few of his essays and numerous texts. Nietzsche understood that in order to better understand the tragedies of Shakespeare, the Greeks, and the countless other playwrights of the past, he must first construct a genealogy. An impressive investigation into the plays of the past deemed as "tragedies" and their birthplace as a genre. Nietzsche finally concludes his investigation with The Birth of Tragedy (1872). The text enters the world of drama and the Athenian concept of the rise and fall of a hero. This primary text will be used to further discover the character of King Richard in Richard III and the different elements that is presented by Nietzsche's Birth of Tragedy such as, but not limited to, Richard's deformity that allows him to ascend to the crown, Richards maleficent "madness" that transcends throughout the play, along with Richard's disregard for human life, morality, and peace. These concepts will be rediscovered through the eyes of Nietzsche and his criticism for the genre of tragedy. There will also be an evaluation of Richard using Nietzsche's theory of Dionysus (Greek god of wine) and the Apollonian, after Apollo, the Greek god of the sun.</p>		

Title: The Implications Of The H2A Agricultural Guest Worker Program: An Avenue For International Human Trafficking Or Positive Labor Recruitment?		Presentation ID: A3 – DOL 306
Author: Mairin Cahill	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Professor Kaitlin Nelson	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>The H2A Agricultural Guest Worker Program is intended, by the US Department of State in conjunction with the Department of Labor, to correct labor shortages in the agricultural field, thereby sustaining our food supply chain in times of need. However, as I hypothesize; The lack of regulation by the monitoring government bodies and corresponding unwillingness of corporations within the food supply chain to accept responsibility for human rights abuses of farm laborers has led to unchecked exploitation and mistreatments of H2A Agricultural Guest Workers in the United States. According to my research, the directly responsible parties are immediate employers, and foreign recruiters who cajole immigrants into accepting US jobs, while charging exorbitant fees for their service. The indirectly responsible parties are monitoring government bodies (which fail to maintain necessary regulation), upper level supply chain corporations (grocery stores, fast food restaurants), and finally, the consumers (who unconsciously demand low prices for produce, thus fueling illegal worker wages). I have composed a prospective solution involving each directly and indirectly responsible group by methodically conducting impartial interviews consistent with Contemporary Political Analysis methodology. Information has been obtained from Labor Unions, Farm Workers Associations, fast food corporations, as well as case-reviews for groups charged with violations of the H2A program.</p>		

Title: Exploring The Bilingual Advantage On Selective Inhibition: EEG And Behavioral Indices		Presentation ID: A4 – SEA 310
Author: Cassandra Gonzales	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Kingsville	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors: Dr. Dana L. Byrd	Mentor(s): Dr. Dana L. Byrd	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>Many studies have shown that balanced bilinguals have an advantage over monolingual speakers while performing specific higher-level cognitive tasks, one of them in conflict inhibition. Further investigation has been applied to this phenomenon to better understand exactly how bilinguals manage to possess this advantage and what part of the brain contributes to these benefits. The purpose of this study is to determine whether balanced bilingual speakers, indeed, have a faster response time and greater overall accuracy performing a conflict inhibition task, using the Eriksen flanker task which involves congruent and incongruent arrow patterns, when compared to their monolingual speaking peers and to explore the underlying feature causing the bilingual advantage. Participants from Texas A&M University at Kingsville were asked to perform two sessions, preliminary language testing and final flanker testing. An Electroencephalography (EEG) was used to measure participant's brain activity to determine which component of the inhibitory process contributes to the bilingual advantage. In addition, an Electrocardiogram (ECG) measured electrical activity of the heart and a respiration amplifier measured respiration effort. This study is currently in Phase I with the recruitment of participants who meet the demanding criteria. Therefore, no results have been confirmed. However, it is expected to find that bilinguals have a significant advantage over monolinguals in tasks that involve attention and conflict resolution due to previous research.</p>		

Title: Stepparent-Stepchild Interactions – A Look From Within The Blended Unit		Presentation ID: A5 – SEA 310
Author: Rebecca Gonzalez	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. David Gurney	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>This study explored the interaction patterns that emerged between stepparents and stepchildren during the discussion of important matters. Important matters included puberty, death, discipline, and discussions regarding the nonresidential parent. Ten stepchildren and five stepparents participated in a short interview process in order to gain a better understanding of the nuances that emerged during the communication of important issues. The study found that both stepchildren and stepparents who reported having open communication within their stepfamily felt comfortable discussing matters with them. The opposite was also found to be true; members of stepfamilies that reported closed-off and difficult communication did not feel comfortable discussing important matters with their stepparent/stepchild. Effective patterns of communication enacted by stepparents included listening, providing non-judgmental environments for discussion, and adapting their communicative behaviors when conversing about important matters. Finally, the study found that both stepparents and stepchildren generally avoided discussing topics regarding the nonresidential parent.</p>		

Title: Shakespeare, Politics, And The Feeling Audience		Presentation ID: A6 – SEA 310
Author: Alex Martinez	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: West Texas A&M University	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Jeff Doty	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>In his ground-breaking essay “Invisible Bullets” Stephen Greenblatt argues—phrased simply—that Shakespeare’s representation of kingship gave the audience a feeling of subversion, without actually being subversive. While Greenblatt does create a strong, coherent argument, his assumption is much too absolute. I believe that Shakespeare uses the technique of demystification—stripping the king of ceremony and replacing it with humility—empowers kingship. Shakespeare aims to represent the king in a positive way. This technique is most prevalent in Shakespeare’s Henry V. Prince Hal, now King Henry V, sheds the superfluous mysticism that surrounds kingship in order to illuminate the reality of kingship. In doing this, Henry V transforms a divine right king into a human that audiences sympathize with. Demystification empowers the monarch because it gives an audience a person they can truly relate to: a player king whose life is a burden due to a position that was unwillingly thrust upon him. This paper examines Henry V and how Hal evokes sympathy, which leads to sympathy for the real life monarch from Shakespeare’s audiences. Further, the paper will examine the dynamics of what an audience does and feels while encountering Shakespeare, specifically what emotions are evoked by Henry V.</p>		

Title: The Sweet Tragedy Of Maternity In Dostoevsky's Crime And Punishment		Presentation ID: A7 – MAR 317
Author: Daniela Nunez	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Professor William J. Nolen	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>In the modern world, when one is raised by a single mother, the characteristics between what constructs a “man” and a “woman” collide. There is no significant difference in the role of either a father or a mother in a child’s perspective because the mother is the one doing the job of both parents. The difference may not be recognized until later on when one observes the way society treats both roles in a functional family. In the case of a single mother, she is the one doing the yard, sewing one’s old clothes, carrying the heavy five-gallons of purified water inside the house, and the one that provides both economical and moral support. The role of a “woman” has always been a very specific thing, and according to many societies, it is a role that “must” be dependent on a “man”. In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s novel Crime and Punishment, the reader is able to observe the way mothers were deprived from being economically, emotionally and intellectually independent. Quintessentially, the importance of this investigation comes with the fact that such depravations are what arouse gender equality questions in future feminist thinkers such as Simone de Beauvoir in her famous work The Second Sex. The clear literary representation of a flesh-and-bone mother in Crime and Punishment is Pulcheria Alexandrovna Raskolnikov, who is a mother limited by her social position and paradoxically whose love as a mother is both her strength and downfall.</p>		

Title: "El Sujeto Femenino En La España Naturalista De La Tribuna Por Pardo Bazán"		Presentation ID: A8 – MAR 317
Author: Nydia Peña	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): José Agustín Martínez-Samos	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>En la novela La tribuna (1883), Emilia Pardo Bazán crea un espacio narrativo donde se observa el despertar del sujeto femenino durante los años posteriores a la tercera Guerra Carlista. Dicho corte feminista pretende ir más allá de contar la historia de la trabajadora de una fábrica de tabaco que pese a su limitada educación observa el mundo como un lugar donde la lucha de clases va paralela a la de género.</p> <p>Con la exposición de la compleja vida de Amparo, Pardo Bazán elabora la visión del ideal del sujeto femenino gracias al devenir del personaje. En este sentido, considerando el ámbito sociopolítico e histórico del mundo de Amparo existe la presencia de una sinécdoque entre la fábrica de cigarros y la España a finales del siglo XIX. Simultáneamente, el significado figurado del hijo que tiene Amparo equivale a otra sinécdoque de España ya que representa la posibilidad de un renacer del país, una nueva esperanza frente al determinismo.</p> <p>De este modo, la importancia de esta investigación se encuentra por un lado en ofrecer una referencia histórica de cuando y como comenzó el movimiento feminista en España, tanto en el ámbito amoroso, como el sociopolítico y educativo. Paralelamente, está la misión de resaltar la objetividad naturalista de Pardo Bazán al concentrarse en detallar la vida de Amparo y sus relaciones con los demás personajes sin restricciones.</p>		

Title: Shakespeare: Misogynist Or Feminist		Presentation ID: A9 – MAR 317
Author: Karina Rios	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Undergraduate	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Robert Haynes	
<p>Abstract William Shakespeare is considered the most influential of the English-speaking writers. Shakespeare’s plays can be categorized into three different genres: tragedy, history, and comedy. Throughout his plays Shakespeare created complicated three-dimensional characters, however, that was not the case for the women in his plays. I found myself wondering why Shakespeare wrote women as either power hungry heartless women, or naïve and love thirsty women. To answer this question I decided to research three different women in Shakespeare’s plays. The three women to be tested will be Lady Macbeth from Macbeth, Queen Isabella from Richard II, and Helena from A Midsummer Nights Dream. In order to make my final conclusion more accurate I decided to have the women in different genres of plays and different age groups. To decide whether or not women have an important role we will use Alison Bechdel’s “Bechdel-Wallace Test” ;. This test explains that there are three rules to decide if a woman is an active presence in literature, these rules are one, one or more women must appear in the work, two, these women must talk to each other alone, and finally, these women must talk about something other than men.</p>		

Master's

Title: Quest For Identity In Tuman Capote's Other Voices, Other Rooms		Presentation ID: A10 – TAR 323
Author: Rachel Allison	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Tarleton State University	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Moumin Quazi	
Abstract Many critics try to discover the parallels between Capote's life and the main character's in Other Voices, Other Rooms. Others use literary and social theories to determine what Capote's intentions were without giving attention to the text and the world it was written in. A closer look at the text provides readers with a novel that reveals to contemporary audiences the difficulties youth faced in transitioning to adulthood, discovering sexuality, and establishing a personal identity all at the same time in a society that rejected any less-than-normal behavior. In a coming-of-age story, Capote includes risqué themes and scenes with suggestions of violence and sexuality throughout the novel, creating a delicate atmosphere for the maturing characters. In an eerily Gothic home filled with unusual people that defy gender norms, the main character, Joel is faced with situations that are confusing and hinder his transition in to adulthood. Many readers can conceive that Joel's transition to adulthood models the importance of self-discovery and self-acceptance. Capote shows the value of creating an atmosphere of sentimentality towards those who do not fit into the mold created by society. In Other Voices, Other Rooms the ideals valued the highest are acceptance and the importance of love.		

Title: The Twin Cities: Laredo, Texas And Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico		Presentation ID: A11 – TAR 323
Author: Sara Buentello	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. John C. Kilburn	
Abstract The Twin Cities: Laredo, Texas, U.S.A. and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico Twin cities are cities that are in close proximity to one another, blending together into one. Although they are separate and unique they share many of the same attributes and characteristics that make them twin or sister cities. Laredo, Texas, U.S. A. and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Mexico are two cities that fit the definition of twin cities. Although the two cities are divided by the Rio Grande River and sit on the borders of two very different countries, the two share many of the same demographic characteristics that include culture and tradition. The past 10 years have placed a substantial strain on the familial relationship between the two cities as the gang and cartel violence continues to plague Nuevo Laredo. Tourism and commerce have been affected as tourists fearing the violence have stopped traveling to Nuevo Laredo. This has affected Laredo in substantial ways as many believe that the violence in Nuevo Laredo is spilling over to Laredo. This misinformation about th e twin cities has Laredo taking steps to distance itself from its twin city. The focus of this study is on the two cities and how they are coping with the current situation as the violence in Nuevo Laredo is not ending.		

Title: The Nixon Doctrine And Presidential Doctrines: Grand Strategy Or Regional Policy		Presentation ID: A12 – TAR 323
Author: Michael Cotten	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Central Texas	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Luke A. Nichter	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>In 1969 President Nixon made statements to the press in Guam that were not intended to be an official announcement of a change in foreign policy, but nevertheless they were taken to be a new direction in foreign policy. This direction was markedly different from that of Kennedy and Johnson and in time came to be known as the Nixon Doctrine. The Nixon Doctrine has been studied to various degrees and the debate has varied over time as to whether the doctrine was intended only for the region of Southeast Asia or was intended to be more global in scope. What has been missing from the debate up to this point is a detailed analysis of the Nixon tapes which the president recorded while in office. These conversations have yet to be transcribed or evaluated in regards to the scope of the Nixon Doctrine despite being available for many years. In this study I intend to show the development of foreign policy of the United States through presidential doct rines and evaluate the Nixon Tapes to determine if the Nixon Doctrine was intended to be a grand strategy or a regional policy.</p>		

Title: Women In Modern And Post-Modern American Literature		Presentation ID: B1 – DOL 306
Author: Stephanie Fox	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Niemeyer	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>In the study of American, modernist period literature, the presence and frequency of both female protagonists or narrators is something that cannot be ignored. The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver and Almanac of the Dead by Leslie Marmon Silko are two novels in particular that utilize the presence of women, in different ways, to relinquish womankind from the mold that previous literature had inadvertently created. In the works The Poisonwood Bible and Almanac of the Dead, gender acts as a bridge that connects these two works together through the concepts of dominance, identity and resistance. The methodology used to ascertain information was extensive readings of both primary and secondary texts including academic articles from an online database. I have found that gender will continue to be relevant as long as readers ignore the issue or do nothing. As humans, we must rise above both motive and any excuse so that we may truly live equal ly—men and women—together. The importance of this research is not only something that can be considered for the past, but is still poignant in the now. The humanities look beneath the surface of an issue and gaze straight into the soul of mankind.</p>		

Title: "This Is Life Or Death": Nietzsche's Cycle Of Morality In AMC's The Walking Dead		Presentation ID: B2 – DOL 306
Author: Roy Gonzales Jr.	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Jonathan Murphy	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>In his Genealogy of Morals and The Will to Power, Friedrich Nietzsche conceives a history of Western morality, one he divides between “master” morality and “slave” morality. According to Nietzsche, master morality was born from the ancient aristocracy, who dictated what was good and bad according to their preferences. Over time,</p>		

the masses oppressed by the masters inverted the traditional system of morality and made the virtues of the masters socially unacceptable, thereby validating the values of the slave: collectiveness, peacefulness, and selflessness. However, Nietzsche saw in the contemporary age a growing nihilism that he predicted will eventually collapse slave morality and usher in a resurgent master morality.

AMC's *The Walking Dead*, through its long-term depiction of post-apocalyptic life, demonstrates this cycle of morality in action. The characters first struggle with the loss of their familiar values, and some succumb to nihilism. Others come to prize and embody the master values of self-sufficiency, strength, and adaptability. When the two systems of morality clash, the show takes the side of master morality. *The Walking Dead's* embrace of Nietzsche's vision has implications both problematic and insightful for our own society. Is the strength of the masters, although destructive, perhaps also necessary?

Title: Cormac McCarthy And The Death Of God		Presentation ID: B3 – DOL 306
Author: Edgar Gonzalez	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Manuel Broncano	
Abstract		
<p>I have chosen to research Cormac McCarthy's <i>Blood Meridian: or the Evening Redness in the West</i>. I have reviewed studies and critiques of <i>Blood Meridian</i>, in particular those trying to decipher the novel's violent content and the character of Judge Holden. I will assess the ways in which McCarthy's novel and central antagonist are tied to Nietzsche's <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i>, but my main goal will be to support the classification of McCarthy as an "agonizing agnostic", that is, a man who wants to believe in God but is unable to do so due to the cruelty humans beings exact on each other. In <i>Blood Meridian</i>, he writes, "'If God meant to interfere in the degeneracy of mankind would he not have done so by now?'" McCarthy is saying that humanity is on its own. With this novel, McCarthy has set out to do no less than to confront humanity's capacity for violence in a world devoid of God. In doing so, he has used the character of the Kid to represent humankind in order to show the painful journey one must undergo once "God is dead".</p>		

Title: Three Wise "Men" And A Higgins		Presentation ID: B4 – SEA 310
Author: Daniel Gonzalez	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Jonathan Murphy	
Abstract		
<p>George Bernard Shaw and his work in the title <i>Pygmalion</i> [1912] has stood as an example of the errors of the social class system and as a mockery of it. The book tells the story of Eliza Doolittle and her new goal in life to be transformed and presented as a "duchess" by the main character: Henry Higgins. The novel depicts Eliza as lower class and Henry as upper class and, by the end, shows them to be the exact opposite in our eyes, but these aren't the only characters to look at. Shaw uses the relation between Henry and Eliza as a mockery of social class, but he also uses the characters of Colonel Pickering and Eliza's father: Alfred Doolittle. To Shaw, the class system of his day, and ours comparably, has too many factors and failures to constitute as something constructive for the community. Through all his characters, Shaw portrays a reality of the social class system, and it isn't a good one. George Bernard Shaw's <i>Pygmalion</i> is a play that addresses not only the errors of the social class system but urges the departing from it.</p>		

Title: Holy Infidels: Orthodoxy, Gnosticism, And Scriptural Interpretation In Early Christianity		Presentation ID: B5 – SEA 310
Author: Samuel Lawrence D.	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Commerce	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. John Howard Smith	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>During the second century, the Fathers of the Church were not so much concerned with composing a canonized Book of Scriptures as they were with defending the faith from movements that were deemed heretical. The question then remains, if there was no organized canon, what then were the Church Fathers and Apologists basing their claims of orthodoxy on? Each had his own opinion of what constituted true orthodoxy and how the Scriptures should be interpreted. At this time there was no “Holy Bible” as it is known and understood today. There were in fact several written works circulating that were not viewed as any greater than the other. Christianity had no set dogma that was unanimously agreed upon and what would later come to be known as orthodox Christianity was in reality a response to the movement of Gnosticism. It would be the Gnostics and the teachings of Marcion of Sinope that would catapult both church fathers and the Apologists to set out to formulate an official doctrine and creed for traditional Christianity in order to establish themselves as distinct from other interpretations and to solidify the authority of church leaders.</p>		

Title: Selling The Experimental Art Ethically Utilizing Integrated Marketing Communications In A Border Town		Presentation ID: B6 – SEA 310
Author: Robbi Marlett	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): John C. Kilburn, Jr., Ph.D.	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>With a zero budget, an unknown brand, a sellable product, but an inexperienced marketing team, this intrinsic study examines the research question, how does one ethically strategize and build a new brand with a zero dollar budget in a traditional Hispanic driven theatrical environment. This paper introduces an eccentric marketing strategy, integrated marketing communication (IMC), and the challenges brought about from the traditional values and expectations of marketing and theater from the theatrical target market [baby boomers] versus the new generation of digital marketers using IMC. By utilizing IMC, this study resulted in a theatrical venue who estimated seating capacity of 550, putting more than 1400 patrons’ butts in seats at a three day production run, out selling competitors venues per capacity, per night. This study references the practical usage of IMC from a new community theater group in a Hispanic heavy city, while citing secondary literature reviews.</p>		

Title: Social Bandits Of The American West		Presentation ID: B7 – MAR 317
Author: David Miller	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Central Texas	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Jerry Jones	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>My project is a synopsis of my current thesis which redefines the term social bandit. My proposed definition is: an oppressed citizen who has no choice but to exercise his right to war and is justified in doing so. This social bandit is educated and charismatic enough to influence the populous to gain support in their plight as individuals but also from an overarching economic and political standpoint.</p>		

I will prove this definition with case studies on Chris Evans of central California and Jesse James of Missouri. I will then prove that these historical characters should not necessarily be classified as criminals and their captors should not be classified as heroes. Similar traits and influences of these social bandits can be correlated to one of America's most celebrated heroes, Harriet Tubman. I will compare and contrast these individuals and prove my definition.

In conclusion, I will identify the lessons that we can take away from this study on social banditry and how it relates to the current counter insurgency fight on a global perspective.

Title: The Symbolic Significance Of Mistletoe In British Literature		Presentation ID: B8 – MAR 317
Author: Darrell Mills	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Robert Haynes	
Abstract		
<p>Mistletoe is renown as a Christmas plant and a kissing license. In Norse mythology, the goddess Frigg believes it to be a small and innocent plant; however, it becomes the means for the death of her beloved son, Baldur the Brave. While mistletoe has become an iconoclast in pop-culture, it has deeper pagan symbolism in the British Isles, which carried over into British literature.</p> <p>Many readers may believe, as Frigg, that mistletoe is small and innocent, authors of British literature have used mistletoe to instill a wide array of meaning to their works. For example, Coleridge uses the relationship between mistletoe and oaks in the opening lines of his epic poem Christabel (1792). Thomas Kyd makes mention of "elms and vines" in his play The Spanish Tragedy (1592). Further, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (1350-1400) implies a reference to mistletoe as the Green Knight appears green in the winter, like mistletoe. My project will attempt to examine the importance of mistletoe, as a significant pagan symbol, through three different periods of British literature: Old English, the Renaissance, and the Romantic periods. The project will forward the notion that the pagan symbolism of mistletoe is more significant in the works of British authors' than as a Christian symbol of Christmas.</p>		

Title: The Rise And Fall Of The Military Government In Argentina: Finding The Memory Of The Dirty Wars		Presentation ID: B9 – MAR 317
Author: Miguel Padron	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Kingsville	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Brenda Melendy	
Abstract		
<p>The 1970s and the 1980s was a time period of political instability and war crimes. Many people did not believe the atrocities that the governments did to their citizens, but the government saw it as a cleansing or purification of the country. The countries of the Southern Cone, composed predominantly of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay, but including portions of Brazil, Colombia, and Bolivia, had military governments overthrow the democratic governments to restore social order and culture to the country. Operation Condor was the fundamental principle to threat the people of the Southern Cone and imposed military governments. "Operation Condor was a campaign of political repression and state terror involving intelligence operation and assassination of opponents, officially implemented in 1975 by the right-wing dictatorships of the Southern Cone of South America. The program was intended to eradicate communist or Soviet influence and ideas, and to suppress or potential opposition movements against the participation government." Eventually through a plan that had been</p>		

implemented during the early 1970s and took immediate action during the mid-70s was a plan of serial killers that would terrorize or kill their country people, and Argentina did the exact thing that the operation required.

Title: Nuestra Burla: Crítica De La Grandeza Política, Social Y Tradicional De Latinoamérica En "Con Legítimo Orgullo" De Julio Cortázar		Presentation ID: B10 – TAR 323
Author: Omar Ramirez	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Lola O. Norris	
<p>Abstract Twentieth-Century Latin-American history has been characterized by political unrest and insurrection. The rise of Marxism appeals to some South American nations by the half of the Twentieth Century. Nonetheless, the triumph of Marxism (in Latin America) will lead to contradictions. This leads Argentinean writer, Julio Cortázar, to expose in his short story, "Con legítimo orgullo", the problems Latin America encounters with this political transition. This essay will describe Cortázar's political reaction towards Latin-American institutionalized marxism. In addition, it will discuss the characters' political apathy and fear from breaking traditional-imposed norms. Furthermore, the essay will also analyze other three key elements: the function of the myth within the short story, its manipulation by the State and the irony behind the story's title.</p> <p>(Presentation in Spanish)</p>		

Title: Ritual, Communication, And Power In The George Washington Birthday Celebration		Presentation ID: B11 – TAR 323
Author: Melissa Santillana	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master’s	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Stuart Davis	
<p>Abstract This paper investigates the role of popular culture (popular festivals) in preserving or reinforcing socioeconomic hierarchies through a discussion of the Washington Birthday Celebration (WBCA) in Laredo, Texas. The WBCA is a month-long event encompassing a series of rituals to celebrate traditions, culture, and the first president and first lady of the United States every January in Laredo. The event was first celebrated in 1898, and at the time it was organized by an elite group called the Improved Order of the Red Men. According to the Laredo Times, the celebration was an effort to “awaken patriotism on the border and make us realize that we live in the United States.” (As cited in Young p.55). Nowadays, the celebration attempts to reach a wider audience through public parades and festivals aimed at the entire population. However, central events like the Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant & Ball remain exclusive to a chosen few elite groups. The WBCA is an important subject to study if one wishes to comprehend the intricate racial and socioeconomic relationship between the residents of the U.S.-Mexico border.</p> <p>A comparison of Mikhail Bakhtin’s theory of the carnival and James Carey’s ritual view of communication will serve as basis for looking at the function this event has historically serve and the kinds of power relationships it has reproduced or perpetuated over the years. Although the specificities of the event have evolved, its core function of preserving and perpetuating power relationships within the existing hierarchy has remained steady.</p>		

Title: Reading Sigmund Freud In Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight Trilogy		Presentation ID: B12 – TAR 323
Author: David Santos	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University International	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Jonathan Murphy	
<p>Abstract This paper's focus concentrates on analyzing Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight film trilogy through the lens of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud. In Civilization and its Discontents (1930), Freud theorizes and writes about the id, the ego, and the superego. The id represents unbridled anger and chaos, the ego is the vehicle through which these emotions are released, and the superego is the conscious self which restrains and controls these emotions. The central argument revolves around the character of Batman representing a living and breathing manifestation of the Freudian superego. The Nolan film trilogy delves into the psychological aspect of Bruce Wayne, and how his transition into a crime-fighting vigilante helps derail corrupt government and litigation all while keeping his destructive tendencies at bay. Thus, this character represents the emotional angst and sorrow all humans must face at some point of their lives. However, by mastering control over his emotions he demonstrates that civilization can always rise above tragedy by providing an ideal for humanity to follow.</p>		

Title: Letters Create The Connection Home: East Texas During The Civil War		Presentation ID: C1 – DOL 306
Author: Katherine Skrabanek	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Commerce	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Jessica Brannon-Wranosky	
<p>Abstract Letters during the Civil War created connections between home and the front-lines. Women left on the home front were expected to continue fulfilling the expectations of being a southern woman. Letters from the women show: the rise in Confederate nationalism, the gendered dynamics of the planter class, and the struggles of fulfilling the expectations placed upon women by antebellum society. By looking at one collection of letter from 1831-1863 between a husband and wife, one can see the dynamics of the Civil War era and the hardships placed on women located on the home front.</p>		

Title: Life In Conquest And Postconquest In Mexico		Presentation ID: C2 – DOL 306
Author: Luis Villasana D	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Kingsville	Student Level: Master's	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Albert Rodriguez	
<p>Abstract The abstract relates on an article review done for a course whose chief purpose was to detail the life in Colonial Mexico transitioning from the pre-conquest to the development of colonial institutions. Furthermore, it depicts the different cultural groups and the development of communities in New Spain. The article review draws primary sources that are included in the articles as well as other sources beyond articles in order to fully present a clear; but equally complex pattern of social interactions of New Spain.</p>		

Doctoral

Title: The Texas Women's Jury Movement, 1920-1954		Presentation ID: C3 – DOL 306
Author: Allison Faber	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University	Student Level: Doctoral	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Sara Aleprn	
Abstract After the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1920, which removed sex as a qualification for voting nationwide, many celebrated the perceived equality between men and women. However, in many states including Texas, voting women arguably still lacked full citizenship. In Texas, a gender-specific legal definition barred women from serving on juries by declaring that a lawful jury consisted solely of twelve men. Due to this interpretation and Texas law, a state constitutional amendment was required. From the 1920s to 1954, women organized and advocated for women's jury rights. While historical scholarship covered the woman suffrage movement extensively, the women's jury movement remains largely overlooked. This study will examine the Texas women's jury movement as part of a larger women's rights narrative and place it into context regarding other jury movements during the period in the United States.		

Title: Concerned Neighbors: The Latin American Debate On The Status Of Puerto Rico In The United Nations, 1945-1952		Presentation ID: C4 – SEA 310
Author: Manuel Grajales	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University	Student Level: Doctoral	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Andrew Kirkendall	
Abstract In 1945, the issue of Puerto Rico status as a colony of the United States was discussed in the United Nations. Puerto Rican independence advocates from the island and within the U.S. attempted to bring their case to the newly organized governing body to argue for autonomy based on the Atlantic Charter signed by the U.S. and Great Britain. Puerto Rican Nationalist Party members and their U.S. pacifist allies made an effort to gain support and solidarity from various Latin American countries. This project will look at the debate on Puerto Rico's status within the UN among the Latin American delegates, with particular focus on Argentina, Mexico, and Cuba. Through the consultation of UN records, U.S. pacifist letters, and corroborating secondary source material, the goal of this project is to determine whether there was a unified Latin American consensus in support of Puerto Rico's independence or if various factors led some delegates to support the United States relationship with Puerto Rico. This topic is important in further understanding the complex dynamics of U.S./Latin American relations after World War II and the continued question of Puerto Rico's territorial status.		

Title: Power Leads To Oppression. Oppression Leads To Deviancy. Deviancy Leads To Rebellion: The Path To Liberation In Marissa Meyer's The Lunar Chronicles		Presentation ID: C5 – SEA 310
Author: Victoria Scholz	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University – Commerce	Student Level: Doctoral	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Susan Stewart	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>This essay explores the ideas of power and oppression in relation to deviant or otherwise subversive behavior and liberation within the young-adult novel <i>_Cinder_</i> by Marissa Meyer. A close analysis of the main protagonist and how she deviates from the expected behavior of the society within the novel provides the foundation of the argument, and supporting sources include scholars such as Bruno Bettelheim, Roberta S. Trites, Jack Zipes, and Maria Tatar with supplemental sources from studies in the social sciences. A close-reading of the actions of Cinder show the path from oppression to rebellion and liberation, promoting the differently-abled in a dystopian society.</p>		

Title: Texas Universities And The Good Neighbor Policy		Presentation ID: C6 – SEA 310
Author: Benjamin Williams	Discipline: Social Sciences (Humanities)	
Campus: Texas A&M University	Student Level: Doctoral	
Co-Authors:	Mentor(s): Dr. Evan Haefeli and Dr. Sonia Hernandez	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>During the first half of the twentieth century, US universities participated in the Good Neighbor Policy (GNP) by admitting students from Latin American nations for college study in the United States. Texas universities were no exception; this project seeks to explore the dynamics of the teachers college system schools and their reactions to GNP engagement. Drawing from archival materials at former Texas teachers colleges, this investigation will explore enrollment numbers, ethnicity/nationality/origin, age, academic majors, extent of study, etc for students who attended teachers colleges on GNP scholarships. Furthermore, the study will investigate college presidential and administrative collections to determine teachers college leaders' attitudes and sentiments about participation in the program. The teachers college was an integral part of higher education during the early to mid-twentieth century. Therefore, it is vital to understand the role these institutions played in the education of students who studied in the US as part of GNP initiatives. Using the Texas teachers college system as a sample base, the analysis is intended to add to our overall comprehension of how effective (influential) the education and scholarship components were toward fostering diversity and academic cooperation during the period. Finally, college administrators' sentiments can serve to gauge enthusiasm for the diplomatic policy overall, and clarify whether the education component contributed to, failed to affect, or even hindered the GNP as an overarching political/diplomatic strategy.</p>		