
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Political Science 204-Honors: International Relations

“Issues in Foreign Policy: Human Rights & Reform of the U.N. Security Council”

Students will consider two issues in regulating global relations between nation-states. The first will look at possible reform proposals for the U.N. Security Council. Since the end of WWII, the Council has given the five permanent members veto power over most U.N. actions. Does this still work in the current world power structure? The second issue will consider global enforcement of human rights. Using the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as a case study, students will examine the possible options and challenges for the world in trying to stop, or better yet, prevent genocide and other mass human rights violations.

Presenters: Political Science 204-Honors students

Sponsor: Professor Merry Mayer

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. English 101: Composition I

“For the People: An Analysis of American Political Participation and Gerrymandering”

Gerrymandering can be defined as the drawing of boundaries of legislative districts to give an unfair advantage to one party or group. Congress, in particular the House of Representatives, is supposed to be a clear picture of the American people and the objectives they hope to achieve. Gerrymandering, however, has altered how congress operates. By gerrymandering districts to favor one party, we have systemically disenfranchised millions of voters through lack of representation. This presentation will examine gerrymandering and the ways in which experts believe gerrymandering has had a negative impact on our voting system. In addition, the presentation will examine the ways that gerrymandering has led to an increase in voter apathy and involvement and why it is vital to our democracy that we end the practice of political gerrymandering.

Presenter: Nicholas Foley

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Vincent Bruckert

12:05 p.m. - 12:25 p.m. Engineering Pathways – Research Assistant for ASEE conference

“Overcoming Comfort Zones to Better the Self-Efficacy of Undergraduate Engineering Students (Tricks of the Trade) (WIP)”

Utilizing personal experiences of Wright engineering students and alumni, this presentation will shed light on the comfort zone dilemma and support the concept of a compounding reward-system as means to increase the self-efficacy of undergraduate engineering students by repeatedly overcoming their comfort zones. The concept of a compounding reward system will be validated by correlating individual students’ grade point averages (GPA) and course workloads to overall time commitments and co-curricular activities per semester. By correlating student involvement with GPA and time to degree completion we will determine the role of the reward system in increasing student self-efficacy and, thus, student success. After joining student organizations, it is anticipated that students will be encouraged to engage in more activities resulting in greater academic and co-curricular success. The results of this research are expected to help increase co-curricular participation and academic achievement through greater self-efficacy and belonging.

Presenters: Mia Erdenebileg and Pasquale Sanfelice

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Doris Espiritu

12:30 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Political Science 201-National Government

“Housing First vs. Care First: Approaches to Addressing Homelessness”

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) spends billions of dollars each year addressing homelessness. Central to the debate regarding how to most effectively help individuals and families who are affected by homelessness is the question of whether “housing first” or “care first” policies and programs are more beneficial in achieving results and providing relief to struggling citizens. This project considers relevant research including arguments and statistics relating to both the “housing first” and the “care first” approach in order to determine which approach, if either, better addresses homelessness.

Presenter: Melissa Glontea

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Merry Mayer

1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. Biology 226: Human Structure and Function

“What Happens If You Don’t Get Enough Sleep?”

We all know that we need to sleep to function properly and feel good, but why exactly? This project aims to understand human sleep mechanisms and what happens in human bodies when we deprive ourselves of sleep. One insight is clear – the consequences of sleep deprivation are not only dangerous but can be fatal. Lack of sleep affects our memory, productivity, immune system, reproductive system, cardiovascular system, and increases risks for Alzheimer’s disease and fatal heart attacks during our lifetime. At last but not least, the project will explain the most dangerous risks of sleep deprivation and offer advice on improving our sleep to live a long and happy life.

Presenter: Yaryna Dyakiv

Faculty Sponsor: Professor Erin Lambers

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Literature 211-Honors: Shakespeare

“William Shakespeare’s Crisis and Progress: Comedy, Tragedy and Dramatic Kinds”

During this time of crisis, students in Honors Shakespeare will trace how personal, social and political crises are often necessary for progress. Through examination of the generic theory and texts, students will pair tragedies with comedies written around the same time: *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (c. 1595), *Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night* (c. 1600), and *Othello* and *Measure for Measure* (c. 1604). By examining the similarities and differences in the genres of tragedy and comedy, we will consider how these plays complement each other in their approach to personal, social, and political conflict and resolution. Students will examine some of the specific themes and questions of these works, including those topics they will more fully address in their 2500-3000-word final research papers.

- **“The Agency of Women: William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Measure for Measure*”**

Presenter: Dianna Garzon

Sponsor: Professor Michael Petersen

- **“William Shakespeare + Genre: ‘What’s in a Name’”?**

Presenter: Melissa Glontea

Sponsor: Professor Michael Petersen

- **“William Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* and Gay Panic: Homoeroticism in the quadrangle of Viola, Cesario, Olivia, and Count Orsino”**

Presenter: Sara Walls

Sponsor: Professor Michael Petersen

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“The World of Bodybuilding as We Know It and Its Evolution”

The presentation will explain how bodybuilding has evolved as a sport and the lifestyle or regimen a bodybuilder has to take to get into this shape and size. The talk will focus mainly on training but also scholarly findings on psychological behavior, from the use of steroids to the mental and social strain bodybuilders go through.

Presenter: Jesus Campos

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“The Effects of Primarily Immerse Virtual Reality on Myopia Progression, Control and Treatment”

The principal human mechanism used to survey, engage and interpret virtual reality, augmented reality, and atmospheric media is the visual system. Currently, computer generated simulated virtual reality environments can be immerse and non-immerse. The immerse virtual reality environment is, at this time, achievable only with a VR headset. Identifying and understanding the effects of these enabling devices on the visual system, as a significantly growing number of young adults and children are choosing to spend more time in these simulated worlds, is imperative to preventative medicine, with a singular emphasis on myopia.

Presenter: Cynthia Delgado

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“Zoom Fatigue: Considering the Virtues and Horrors of Indirect Experience”

Zoom emerged as a virtual savior during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, providing a safe space for people to meet remotely for work, education, social connection, and telehealth when physical proximity was dangerous. The term “Zoom fatigue” quickly debuted, expressing the collective negative experience that also accompanied virtual pandemic life. In this presentation, themes of human connection and over-dependence on technology in E.M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops” are explored in relation to current research on Zoom fatigue in today’s world.

Presenter: Melissa Glontea

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“Ladies, Gentlemen, and Robots?”

This presentation explores trustworthiness of artificial intelligence. An accompanying digital project will feature a recorded video of Siri and the author in conversation. The main goal is to attempt to elicit uncanny responses out of her. Siri and Alexa have been known for saying bizarre things from time to time, and although it is fun to have AI assistants, they are still able to say and do unpredictable things. At the end of the conversation with Siri, the presenter will attempt to have Siri sing a song accompanied by the presenter playing guitar.

Presenter: Amina Hachami

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“Social Effects of Videogames”

This project investigates historical trends of video games, probing a correlation between violence, anger issues and video games, but it also exposing the positive effects of video games. Issues addressed in this talk include the industry’s growth, violence, ratings system and the changes that have occurred during the last 40 years.

Presenter: Fernando Monge

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“Research on the Origins and Effects of Gaming Preference”

This presentation investigates and analyzes gaming preferences, their origins and effects. Examined here are the results of studies on gaming preferences in certain groups of people and the shown effects that different game types have on players, as well as theories on the origins of gaming preferences through theories of desires. A digital project will follow that features the presenter talking at length with gamers about their preferences.

Presenter: Katrina Overfield

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. English 102: Composition II: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Atmospheric Media

“The Story and Characters of *Life is Strange*”

This research project examines how the game *Life is Strange* relates to themes of time travel, the impact of one’s decisions, and the interactions the player has with characters.

Presenter: Yuriy Savchuk

Sponsor: Professor Mark Brand

Wednesday, April 28 Zoom Meeting for all the presentations scheduled for Wednesday

Topic: Student Research and Creative Scholarship Colloquium

Time: Apr 28, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cccedu.zoom.us/j/97152194864?pwd=cC90NnFsVytOSGR6TnB0OWRNbVh0dz09>

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Passcode: 823039

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Thursday, April 29 Zoom Meeting for all the presentations scheduled for Thursday

Topic: Student Research and Creative Scholarship Colloquium

Time: Apr 29, 2021 09:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cccedu.zoom.us/j/95847695594?pwd=U0NjS2Q5ZkZsLzgyS1Vzam14NnIrdz09>

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*Wright faculty sponsors: Professors Doris Espiritu, Erin Lambers, Mark Brand,
Merry Mayer, Michael Petersen, and Vincent Bruckert.*

Honors Program Coordinator: Professor Natasha Todorovich

Thank you to our student presenters and to our faculty sponsors!