





Marshall Curry . Leadership Training at Zena Forest.  
(Advisors: Professors James Thompson, Art, and Wendy Peterson Boring, History)

The place-based, hands on learning in food systems education is known to offer unique opportunities to develop student's knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices. Through my explorative research into how classrooms work, I found that students in these programs can also develop skills as communicators, learners, leaders, and agents of change. I will present how my qualitative study of curriculum setting and its relation to the students, farm work, and the communal elements of the Summer Institute of Sustainable Agriculture at Willamette's Zena Forest and Farm, combine to create a laboratory for self-reflection, ethical formation, and paradigm change for students. I will also discuss learning objectives and lesson plans derived from the research that could be added to any program to incorporate these outcomes that are integral to any leadership training.

Heather Kyllingmark . Film Screening: Being Eleven.  
(Advisor: Professor Bobby Brewer-Wallin, Theatre)

This short film offers a glimpse into a young girl's experience of memory, loss, and longing in the face of adolescence. Following the screening, I will discuss my research, which centered around the expression of grief and absence as displayed through the medium of narrative film. I will also discuss character development and aesthetic choices.

Dawn Hinrichs. Descriptive and Proscriptive: The Victimization of Queer Youth.  
(Advisor: Professor Jade Aguilar, Sociology)

Portrayals of LGBTQ youth in the media are overwhelmingly, if not exclusively, negative and highlight queer youth as victims of violence, rejection, and suicide. In my research, I call into question the tokenized, seemingly singular narrative of tragic LGBTQ adolescence, in favor of media portrayals of youth that capture a wide range of experiences. By exploring the impact the media has on mainstream conceptions of LGBTQ adolescence and, in turn, how those notions affect the lived realities of LGBTQ youth, I hope to shed light on how the marketed victimization of LGBTQ youth is as descriptive as it is proscriptive. Based on the economic and political gain of LGBTQ youth centered campaigns, I argue that pro-LGBTQ organizations unintentionally victimize and directly exploit their own youth, while attempting to raise awareness, financial resources, and support for LGBTQ-related causes.

Amanda Beggs Is the Black Church Dead? An Examination of the Obstacles to Modern Prophecy.  
(Advisor: Professor David Gutterman, Politics)

Why does the Civil Rights movement seem like the last time something good came of religion's entry into politics? Has the influence of the Black Church really been absent in its wake? My research aims to discuss these questions, among others, through a focused examination of prophecy's role in the Black Church, both of the historical successes of prophetic movements and current claims that prophecy in the church is dead or dying. Using this examination, my research analyzes modern-day obstacles to prophecy, ultimately arguing that the influence of liberal capitalism has made it more difficult than ever for progressive social movements against justice to come from a religious foundation.

These works were completed as part of the Liberal Arts Research Collaborative and supported with generous funding from the Mellon Foundation.

Sarah Greiner. An Unsustainable Paradise: Gender Performativity in Paradise Lost  
(Advisor: Professor Allison Hobgood, English)

My summer work investigated how the characters in Paradise Lost perform their genders in ways which reveal this part of their identities to be socially constructed. This notion of gender performativity comes out of Judith Butler's work in post-structuralist feminist theory, and postulates that gender is learned and culturally, rather than biologically, based. My final essay is a close reading of John Milton's epic poem coupled with an application of this feminist theory, and challenges western ideas about gender roles, which are traditionally reinforced, rather than stabilized, by the Judeo-Christian story of Creation.

Victoria Gray. The Mormon Triumph over California's Proposition 8: A Silent Victory for Mormons and their Polygamous Past  
(Advisor: Professor David Gutterman, Politics)

An investigation into the hierarchical structure, legal nature, and adaptive doctrine of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Questions to be answered: Has this structure helped advance the political goals of the LDS Church? Should the federal government revoke the tax exempt status of the LDS Church? What are the consequences of the increased influence of the Church of Latter Day Saints? Case Study: The passage of Proposition 8 in the state of California.

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