Panel Sessions
Panel 1: 3:05-4:15pm, Science 238

3:05 Carlye Bellamy, "Investigations into Possible Buddhist Influence on Gnostic Gospel of Thomas"

I took a class called History of Christianity, where I learned something about the Gnostic religious tradition, a religion deemed heretical by many early Christian leaders. Hostile writings from these early church leaders were all that modern scholars possessed in their attempt to understand Gnosticism. In 1945, a number of undiscovered texts were found in Upper Egypt. These texts came to be called the Nag Hammadi Library. This discovery sparked major interest in Gnosticism because so many of these texts were lost Gnostic Gospels. These gospels revealed information about Gnosticism previously unknown to religious historians. While most scholars trace Gnostic roots to Christian and Judaic traditions, this thesis will demonstrate the probability that Gnosticism was influenced by Buddhism, as well. This will be supported through analysis of the Gnostic Gospel of Thomas, sometimes called the fifth gospel. It is indisputable that there are parallels between Gnosticism and Buddhism. The theological commonalities found in the gospel, and the historical proof of interaction between western and eastern peoples, supports my thesis of influence of Buddhism on Gnosticism. If it is true that Buddhism had influences on Gnosticism, this would show that Christianity can be correctly viewed as grounded in a variety of sources. (Advisor: Dr. Charles Zimmerman)


The theology of Mary and Marian cults had a significant impact on the religious views of the Middle Ages. As an influential medieval writer, composer, and philosopher, both Hildegard von Bingen’s written works and musical compositions have been examined from many different perspectives. Although scholars have determined that Hildegard’s religious writings show the definite influence of Marian ideology, scholarship pertaining to the impact of Hildegard’s Marian views on her chant music is lacking. This project examines the relationship between Hildegard’s religious views – which elevated Mary to a position in the Trinity – and the views represented in her chant music. For this project, twenty-eight chants were analyzed from the first three volumes of Hildegard’s Symphonia Armoniae Celestium Revelationum, including chants dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Father and Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through examining the liturgical function, mode, pitch focus, interval usage, range, and note-to-syllable ratio of each chant, comparisons could be made between the chants dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the chants dedicated to the Trinity. This analysis showed both definite variations and similarities in between the chants written for the Blessed Virgin Mary and those written for the Trinity depending on which specific musical aspect was being
considered. In addition, the way in which Hildegard set her original texts was also considered. Based on this analysis, all of the differences found seem to point to the elevation of Mary’s heavenly aspects, suggesting that Marian ideology impacted not only Hildegard’s theological views, but also her compositions. (Advisors: Dr. James Bates and Dr. Jennifer Merkowitz)

3:35 Kailee Miller, “Share BacAPac: Fighting Childhood Hunger"

Almost 31% of the local Westerville school district students are eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program supported by the government, which equates to around 4,290 students. This program provides meals for the students during the school week; however, students still miss meals over the weekend, between school weeks. ShareBacAPac is a new program that is working to bridge that gap between the end of the school week and the start of the next. This program sends home bags that contain ten healthy food and drink items and a toothbrush with toothpaste, which is enough to last a child over the weekend. This program has the goal of empowering the children as individuals, by having food of their own that they do not have to ask for or hope for. ShareBacAPac is currently feeding about twenty-eight children each week, at a cost of $6/backpack. As the leader of this program, I have worked to engage other college students and community members to take part in this local need through volunteering, donations, and other forms of support. Through this experience I have wrote and received a $500 grant through Youth Service America, as well as discussed with school counselors, coordinated both college, high school, and elementary student involvement, fundraised, and more. Being a Health Education major with a focus in Public Health, and Health Promotion and Fitness major with a minor in nutrition has been a very applicable experience. (Advisor: Dr. Robert Braun)

3:50 Becky Woodruff, “Mourning’s Discontinuity: Theorizing the Grief Memoir"

This project examines grief theory in conjunction with the genre of grief memoir. It argues that it is impossible for experts to delineate a universal theory of grief because grief is an individual experience. Furthermore, grief theory promises a succession of stages culminating in an endpoint—closure—which grief memoirists continually prove does not exist. This disjointedness between what is theorized as “normal” and the reality of an absence of “normal” is demonstrated particularly in the works of Geneviève Jurgensen, Joan Didion, and Alison Smith. These texts explore the aftermath of loss and refute established forms of grief theory. This project uses Didion, Jurgensen, and Smith, and other texts that provide similar support, to demonstrate grief not as a progression of stages but as a singular, unpredictable experience. My interest in this field stems from personal investment. The project began as a dual critical and creative piece; initially, I intended to include threads of my own memoir, which would deal with a specific experience of loss I faced in high school. My fascination with grief theory was born of this event. As the project developed, however, I decided to focus entirely on criticism. In researching this project, I gathered over thirty memoirs,
gradually narrowing my focus to three primary texts by Didion, Jurgensen, and Smith—though the thesis employs other memoirs, as well. The project uses these texts to support the developing idea that established grief theories are largely unfounded and can be damaging in their prescription of stages. (Advisor: Dr. Karen Steigman)

Panel 2: 3:05-4:15pm, Science 104

3:05 Laura McDaniels, “Identification and Characterization of an HD-GYP Domain Protein in Streptomyces Coelicolor”

C-di-GMP is a signaling molecule used in numerous bacteria in the control of pathogenicity, biofilm formation, and switching between motile and non-motile stages of bacterial life cycles. C-di-GMP is produced with GGDEF diguanylate cyclases and hydrolyzed using phosphodiesterase enzymes including those with HD-GYP domains. Streptomyces coelicolor is a nonpathogenic species of the genus of gram-positive soil bacteria that produce widely used antibiotics. Two genes Sco5218 and Sco5219 in S. coelicolor contain potential HD-GYP domains. A mutant is being constructed containing an insertion mutation into 5219 and another mutant containing an insertion upstream of 5218 potentially disrupting function of both genes, as they are co-transcribed. Construction of mutants involved preparing a competent E. coli strain ET12567 with helper plasmid pUZ8002. Plasmid DNA prepared for gene disruption plasmids containing insertions in 5218 or 5219 were then transformed into ET12567/pUZ8002. Successful transformation was confirmed through enzymatic digestion and gel electrophoresis. The DNA was then mated from E. coli to the wild-type strain of Streptomyces coelicolor. This resulted in S. (Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Bennett)


Red-eyed treefrogs display size-dependent growth. Small froglets emerging from high density environments initially gain mass, while large froglets from low density environments lose mass. We assessed if this pattern could be attributed to nutritional plasticity in the larval stage carrying over post-metamorphosis. We predicted that high density larvae would increase their gut length (increasing digestive efficiency) when food availability was low and that this would carry over post-metamorphosis. Fat bodies and liver size would also reduce in size, reducing metabolic costs. Larvae were reared at three densities (5, 25 and 45 individuals per 400 L tank) with per capita food availability different per density. Ten size-matched larvae and 10 froglets from each density were collected and euthanized to dissect and weigh their guts, livers, and fat bodies. Both larval and froglet guts were uncoiled, and photographed. Gut length and area were assessed using image analysis software. High and medium density larvae had significantly longer guts than low density larvae. Low density froglets were more than double the size of high density froglets. Despite this extreme size difference,
gut length did not vary, although guts from high density froglets were thinner and lighter. Livers and fat bodies were proportionately smaller in high density froglets, as well. These findings demonstrate that the larval environment has significant effects of the anatomy and physiology of emerging froglets. (Advisor: Dr. Sarah Bouchard)

3:35 Kristen Giesting, “Bacterial Diversity and Triclosan Resistance in Alum Creek”

Bacteria in Alum Creek are being studied to determine the percentage of colonies with resistance to an antimicrobial called triclosan. Triclosan is commonly found in liquid hand soaps. Water samples are taken from a wastewater treatment outfall, as well as upstream and downstream locations. (Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Bennett)

3:50 Chris Thayer, “A Path Dependent Model to Predict and Explain Consumers’ Likelihood to Use QR Codes”

Corresponding with the increased use of smartphones and other mobile devices equipped with a camera, quick response (QR) codes have been introduced. QR codes allow large amounts of data (e.g., product information, discounts, usage suggestions) to be compressed into a small, printed square. To access the information, consumers must scan the QR code with their smart device. Korean and Japanese consumers appear more willing to scan QR codes in retail settings compared to their American counterparts. This reluctance is explored through the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Furthermore, consumers’ motivation toward QR code use is made explicit and explained by extending TAM to include apathetic motivation. The evidence suggests that extrinsic motivation exists through apathetic motivation, which influences consumers’ likelihood of using a QR code. If retail or brand managers want to encourage consumers to scan QR codes, then retail or brand managers will have to provide greater forms of extrinsic motivation to overcome consumers’ higher levels of apathetic motivation. Examples of motivators include discounts only available through a QR code and making QR codes more visible to consumers. The larger implications of this model’s explanation of QR code adoption by consumers extend to enabling retailers to create more efficient marketing campaigns, and to better predict what later technological trends might best succeed with consumers. (Advisor: Dr. Michael Levin)

Panel 3: 3:05-4:15pm, Science 237

3:05 Beth Gier, “The American Novel of Manners”

A theme that can be traced throughout American literature is the importance of manners. Many famous works can be considered novels of manners. This reading will track the idea of class and manners through four different American novels: Daisy Miller (1878), The Talented Mr. Ripley (1955), Revolutionary Road
(1961), and American Psycho (1991). Specifically, it will focus on how manners function to conceal hidden motives, avoid difficult problems, repress desires, and how, in some cases, that very repression can lead to violence. It will also examine how seemingly different novels are able to connect under the common theme. Richard Yates’ Revolutionary Road and Henry James’ Daisy Miller explore the use of manners and repression in a mild and realistic fashion as it relates to relationships and societal standing—a failed marriage and an eccentric, budding socialite respectively. Patricia Highsmith’s The Talented Mr. Ripley and Bret Easton Ellis’ American Psycho embody the importance of manners in social class and rank as well, but they emphasize the violent nature of repressive properness as both texts feature gruesome murders and morally negligent main characters. While the plots in the Yates and James pieces differ radically from the ultra-violence in the Highsmith and Ellis novels, the central conflicts all revolve around the idea of class and proper behavior that categorizes these classics as novels of manners. (Advisor: Dr. Karen Steigman)

3:20 Hannah Biggs, Tony DeGenero, Justin McAtee, Whitney Reed, Jacqlyn Schott, Chris Thayer, “Professional Editing and Journal Publication”

Student editors of humanities journals kate, Quiz and Quill, and Aegis will discuss the submission, peer review, and publication process. Come find out how to get experience in academic publishing! (Advisors: Dr. Tammy Birk, Dr. Shannon Lakanen, and Dr. Karen Steigman)

3:35 Hannah Hawkinberry, “Heritage Language Learners Instruction (HLLs): A Learner Oriented Approach”

This honors thesis project examined the significantly underdeveloped field of heritage language learning as well as its increasing importance to our country’s cultural and global future. Heritage language learners (HLLs) are persons who have grown up in a home where a language other than English is primarily spoken, who is more or less bilingual in English and the heritage language, and yet does not fully comprehend the grammatical schema or the formal usage of the heritage language. HLLs of Spanish are a quickly growing group of students in the Spanish foreign language classroom. Foreign language teachers find it difficult to accurately identify these students’ learning needs and even harder to determine effective methods for teaching them. Through the exploration of texts, 130 hours of observation of various classes, a survey sent to 250 Ohio Spanish teachers and interviews with three HLLs, this project solidified the definition of a HLL and identified several differences in how these students learn Spanish, their first language, in comparison to students who learn Spanish as a second language. This project examined the most effective methods by which to teach Spanish to this group of students and determined what type of program model might be most valuable in building upon HLLs strengths in using the language. This project has confirmed the HLL population to be strong and growing. It has concluded that this group of students oftentimes achieves at a higher rate than
traditional foreign language students in the skill areas of speaking and listening while they struggle in the areas of formal reading and writing. Individualized instruction and formal language instruction have been identified as particularly effective methods for addressing the specific needs of the HLL. The implications of this research are important for foreign language instruction, identifying methods to differentiate instruction for HLLs. (Advisor: Dr. Kristin Reninger)


The Winter Soldier Investigation of 1971 brought Vietnam veterans together to discuss and cope with their experiences in Vietnam. These veterans were particularly critical of U.S. policy in Vietnam because they thought these policies were crimes. In three days of publicized meetings, veterans sought to enlighten the American public on what was really happening in Vietnam, and what the government was concealing from the public. The Winter Soldier Investigation was more than an anti-war demonstration. It exposed problems with the war, and more importantly, problems with a whole society. This exposure of American policy is essential in understanding the driving forces behind the anti-war movement. A more concrete understanding of America’s most controversial war can be obtained through proper analysis of the factors leading up to the Winter Soldier Investigation. Ant-war stirrings concerning the draft led to growing dissent within the military, which then led to the formation of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Without these factors, the Winter Soldier Investigation never would have taken place. The historiography of the movement lacks the connection between the draft, the GI anti-war movement, and the VVAW, and how these factors led to the Winter Soldier Investigation. These meetings did not occur out of nowhere. There were specific factors that led to the Winter Soldier Investigation. Analyzing and interpreting these historical steps produces a clearer understanding of how and why the Winter Soldier Investigation took place. This is what this paper intends to achieve. (Advisor: Dr. Anthony DeStefanis)

4:00pm: Reception, Science Building, First Floor Atrium

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Cardinal Colloquium Programming Committee

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Kate Carey
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Joan Esson
Marla Garcia
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