

Senior Seminar Topic Proposals Fall 2017

Ari Bogom-Shanon: Growing Jewish American Identity: The Potential of the Recent Jewish Food Movement in the United States

My paper considers how collective identity is constructed by forces inside and outside the Jewish community with particular attention to recent Jewish farm and food initiatives in the United States. Similar to the most recent trend of food movements in American

Nora Faber: Why We Make Every Night a Late-Night

musical, commentative, cinematic, or a mix of the three, they all have appropriative aspects to them, and flourish on a platform where media sharing is a straightforward and uncomplicated process. First, I will identify the ways in which these art forms tie in with larger historical conversations about artistic license, and how the discourse surrounding them compares with that of past debates concerning originality and intellectual property. Next, I discuss modern attitudes and debates surrounding their legality and authenticity, from the perspective of both the average internet user and traditional media companies. Finally, I

I present a case for the Fender Telecaster as quintessential American instrument and

my religious upbringing as a Unitarian Universalist. I also explore the success of American artists Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan with reference to the Telecaster. I design and conclude that the Fender Telecaster is a seminal achievement of American manufacture and design and has been rightfully elevated from station of mere tool to venerated icon.

Lisanny Manzueta: Dominican Immigration and Society's Role in the Process of Acculturation

My seminar paper is an ethnography of Dominican and Dominican American immigrants. I have interviewed Dominicans of different ages who arrived to the United States at different times in their lives, and I argue that people experience immigration into the United States differently, and that there cannot be an immigration reform drafted that caters to the experiences of all immigrants equally. For instance, those who immigrate to the country at a younger age are often provided the opportunity and resources to learn English through bilingual programs in schools or in after school programs. It is more difficult for older immigrants to acquire language skills because

For my seminar paper, I have interviewed doulas, midwives, and OB/GYNS in the Capital Region, exploring the racial disparity that exists in their maternal and infant care practices and what can be done about it. Ultimately, I argue that doulas, because of the qualities inherent in their roles as support persons and advocates, can and should play a vital role in achieving birth justice.

Lucas Pickering: The Closing of the American Mind: The Rise of ADHD and the Ramifications of Giving ADHD Medications to Children

The fifth edition of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders defines Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) as "a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity that interferes with functioning or developing." ADHD became an official disorder in 1987 as a way to help children who were suffering from a lack of focus and attention that greatly derailed their inherent intelligence and well-being. Over the last two decades there has been a considerable rise in ADHD diagnoses and medications given to children between the ages of 4-17. I argue that these increases stem from two things: the profit-motives pursued by pharmaceutical companies and the passing of No Child Left Behind in 2001 that fundamentally changed the way teachers were expected to teach their students. My paper will discuss how treatment for this disorder started began with the best of intentions and how it slowly was corrupted by monetary and political considerations.

Zoe Resnick: Identity in The Digital World: How Building a Digital Identity Is Changing the Way We Are Perceived

Social media has become an outlet for individuals to express, judge and build
-representation, social life
and self-esteem and online platforms have affected the ways in which we perceive ourselves and present ourselves to the public. By understanding individual experiences of digital identity formation in Skidmore students and alumni, I explore the pre-formatted technicalities and social patterns within social media to gauge the effects of living within

Jack Spiegelman: Love & Haight in the 1960s

From the Shakers to the Mormons, countercultural movements have existed throughout American cultural history. No decade in contemporary American history has been defined by greater social tumult and agitation to disrupt the status quo more than the 1960s. That decade witnessed a series of tectonic shifts that irrevocably altered the fabric of American society, including a civil rights movement led by an emboldened African American community resulting in the enactment of far-reaching federal civil rights laws; a protest movement gaining momentum as war being waged in Southeast

profound change in both the American family and workplace. The convergence of all of these forces, coupled with a mass media gaining a growing influence over how Americans perceived the world around them, helped to create unprecedented cultural and political upheav

Ashbury neighborhood during this period offered a bold and radical attempt to think and behave differently, questioning the norms of mainstream America and disrupting a society historically resistant to change. By examining relevant reporting, studieing, stud(p)-aqy his (a)