

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of English - English Week
11th Annual MSU Undergraduate Literature Conference,
April 3rd-4th, 2025

THURSDAY, April 3rd, 2025, 9:30AM – 4:45PM (PSU 313)

9:30-10:45AM: ETHNIC AMERICAN LITERATURE I

Moderator:

- **Susan Grayton Pass (Auburn/Zoom)**, River of Love, Fire of Judgement: Irony in James Baldwin's "The Outing"
- **Isabella Kashubin (MSU)**, Literature and Social Protest Paraphernalia: The Farmworker Movement's "Grapes of Wrath" Button Pin
- **Alex Aragonex (MSU)**, Gary Soto's San Joaquin Valley: A Place, People, and Mind

11:00AM-12:15PM: FEMINIST AND QUEER READING I

Moderator:

- **Dalton Young (MSU)**, The Martyr, Medusa: The Villainization of Women in Myth and Zoraida Córdova's "The Gorgon Confessionals"
- **Kaitlin Jeppson (MSU)**, A Playing of Parts: An Exploration of the Divided Self in William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*
- **Sav Archer (MSU)**, Sapphic Erotic Desire in *The Price of Salt*
- **Jackson Lundeen (MSU)**, Big Black Moles and Split Little Toes: The Communication of Gendered Meaning through Bodies in Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*

12:30-1:45PM: SNACK AND CHAT

Join us for informal discussion of English Department programs and organizations!

2:00-3:15PM: APPROACHES TO POETRY

Moderator:

- **Katie Weeks (MSU)**, The Timelessness of the Fireside Poets: An Analysis of Bryant and Longfellow
- **Salena Figueroa (MSU)**, Fictophilic Themes in T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
- **Elizabeth Morgan (Kalamazoo College)**, Completely and for All Time: Story, Movement, and Death in Louise Glück's Poetry

3:30-4:45PM: INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION

Moderator:

- **Ellison Radant (Auburn/Zoom)**, Ignorance and Oppression in Charlotte Smith's "On Being Cautioned"
- **Gracelin Poorna Nelson (MSU)**, Grief in Horacio Quiroga's "EL hijo": A Psychological Analysis
- **Aisling Wilson (MSU)**, A Tale of Two Schools: Exploring How Cultural Narratives Influence Educational Systems Through Comparative Literary Analysis
- **Jackie Shockley (MSU)**, The Conventions Tell a Story: How *Elden Ring* Exists as a Result of Souls-Like Genre Expectations

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FRIDAY, April 4th, 2025, 10:10AM – 3:45PM (PSU 313)

10:10-11:00AM: ETHNIC AMERICAN LITERATURE II

Moderator:

- **Devynn LeJeune (MSU)**, Salvation and Punishment: The Hypocrisy of Religious Slaveholders in the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- **Zane Prater (MSU)**, Stagnation, Assimilation, or Hybridization: A Choice Between Life or Death in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*

11:15AM-12:05PM: FEMINIST AND QUEER READING II

Moderator:

- **Natalie Gates (MSU)**, “Sit There, Look Pretty”: How *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Operates as a Subversive Feminist Text
- **Kali Tucker (MSU)**, Viewing Sybil Vane: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and Compulsory Heterosexuality
- **Nicole Rokusek (MSU)**, The *Nice* Guy of Kristen Roupenian's “Cat Person”

12:20-1:10PM: SNACK AND CHAT

Join us for informal discussion of English Department programs and organizations!

1:25-2:15PM: GENDER/GENRE CROSSINGS

Moderator:

- **Bianca Salomon (MSU)**, “Imagining Myself a Hero”: Arthur Miller's “Tragedy and the Common Man” and the Failed Tragic Hero in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*
- **Montserrat Rodriguez (Missouri Southern)**, Blurring the Lines: The Reality of Fiction in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*
- **Taylor Ward (MSU)**, The Man in the Monster: Transgender Identity in Matt Bell's *Appleseed*

2:30-3:45PM: VAMPIRES, HORROR, AND THE PARANORMAL

Moderator:

- **Bailey Wallace (MSU)**, Blood and Desire: How Vampires Mirror Cultural Anxieties Through the Ages
- **Anna Berkheimer (MSU)**, Draining the Veins: How Female Characters Suffer in Vampire Fiction
- **AJ Moles (MSU)**, The Reification of Patient-Doctor Relationships in *Dracula* and the Film *Shock Treatment* (1981)
- **Halle Lee (MSU)**, Revisiting Shirley Jackson and Henry James: What Those Dusty Old Ghost Stories Taught Me about Writing Horror