Friday, April 5th Panels

9:05-9:55 am: Literature, Culture, and Sociopolitics
- Erin Benedict, "The Myth of Sisterhood in Wonder Woman"
- Lauren J. Barclay, "Outlaw Women and Unconventional Responses to Trauma in Works by Toni Morrison"

10:10-11:00am: Issues in Ethnic American Literature and Culture, I
- Daren Colbert, "The Originality and Imitation of To Pimp A Butterfly, as Viewed Through Zora Neale Hurston's 'Characteristics of Negro Expression'"
- Emily Lewandowski, "The Caribbean Mongoose Against the Fukü"

11:15am-12:05pm: (Lunch Break)

12:20-1:10: Issues in Ethnic American Literature and Culture, II
- Alexander Durbin, "Ethnic American Identity and Ziklą́-Šá’s 'Blue Star Woman'"
- Shae Park, "Meanings of Death in 'The Ballad of Rudolph Reed' and 'Lady Lazarus'"

1:25-2:15pm: Reading Literature and Culture through Disability Studies
- Tyler Woenscraft, "Faulkner's Reflection on American Eugenics and Disability History in The Sound and the Fury"
- Maureen N. Havey, "Modern Day Heroes: A Look at Disabilities and Nuanced Characters in Percy Jackson and the Olympians"
- Rachel Edens, "Marvel's Bucky Barnes: Disability Stereotypes"

Saturday, April 6th Panels

9:00-10:00am: Representing the Social
- Kyle Richardson, "The Stagnant Half-life of Humanity in Literature"
- Raymond Moylan, "Authority, Utopia, and the Advent of Neoliberal Capitalism"
- Savannah Hartje, "Ceremony and Society: The Female Power in Beowulf"

10:00am-11:00am: Feminist Approaches to Literature
- Rebecca Harris, "Demon in the House: Victorian Conventions and the Punishment of Women in Great Expectations"
- Anna Rickard, "Destroying the Transparent Eyeball: Thoreau's Walden through an Ecofeminist Lens"

11:00am-12:00pm: Gender and Popular Culture
- Emily L. Arneson, "Non-Toxic Masculinity: Male Relationships and Emotional Vulnerability in Fleischer's Venom"
- Stevie Leigh, "Gendered Expressions and Queer Perceptions: (De)coding the Music of Freddie Mercury"
- Alex Fallon, "Reconstructing Foundations: Normalizing Queer Identities in Apocalyptic Landscapes"

12-1pm: (Lunch Break)

1-2pm: Shakespeare
- Taylor Stanton, "Finding Female Identity: Necessary Guises for Living Well in The Merchant of Venice and Measure for Measure"
- Holly Morrison, "Making Use of Nothing in Shakespeare’s King Lear"
- Brad Kelly, "A Historicist Approach to Shakespeare’s Richard II"

2-3pm: Approaches to My Ántonia
- Victoria Janacek, "Re-imagining the American Identity: Cultural Pluralism in My Ántonia"
- Haley Nelson, "A Historicist Approach to Willa Cather’s My Ántonia"
- Katherine Coulter, "Jim Burden: The Burden of Portraying the West"
- Sophia Orlando, "Reflection of Self in My Ántonia"

Keynote Speaker: Friday, April 5th, 4:00pm
Dr. Susan Stewart, "Doing Double Duty: Diversity Inside and Outside the Text"

Dr. Susan Stewart, Associate Professor of Literature at University of Texas A&M-Commerce, explores the roles of diversity in adolescent literature and discusses how we can talk about diversity in today’s complicated world. A reception will follow the lecture.

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