Kelley Villa, Blanca Gutierrez, and Felicia Garcia. Indian Mascot Community Listening Project *(Advisors: Professors Rebecca Dobkins and Brook Colley, Anthropology and American Ethnic Studies)*

In May 2012, the Oregon State Board of Education banned Indian mascots. To promote dialogue at public high schools affected by the ban, our team was invited to develop the Indian Mascot Community Listening Project. Over a period of nine weeks, we traveled across Oregon to conduct interviews with various stakeholders from three communities. Our results, including a report and a forthcoming workshop, reflect the deeply collaborative nature of our research design.

Brynn Raymond. Intersectionality in the Urban Spaces of Harlem and the Literature of the Harlem Renaissance.
*(Advisor: Professor Alba Newman Holmes, English)*

Many studies of 1920s Harlem as well as of the literature of the Harlem Renaissance prioritize the lens of one or two identity categories in order to investigate how a particular facet of identity shaped experiences of Harlem or was represented in Harlem Renaissance art. However, looking at the intersections and tensions between a multiplicity of identities including nationality, race, class, gender, and sexuality shows that intersectionality was central to how African American Harlem initially came to be, how a diverse population of individuals navigated various spaces within Harlem, and how different leading figures of the Harlem Renaissance constructed the relationship between identity and the creation of art. Foregrounding intersectionality in the urban spaces of 1920s Harlem as well as in the literature of the Harlem Renaissance reaffirms the monumental importance of critiquing intersectional rather than isolated oppressions both through representation of intersectional identities in art as well as through remaining committed to intersectionality within justice movements.

Grace Cohen. The Poetry is in the Streets
*(Advisors: Professors Sarah Bishop and Alba Newman Holmes, Russian and English)*

This project focuses around the city and how people interact with city space. Studying the urban development ideas of the Situationists, an intellectual movement from the 60s, I wandered through Portland photographing the city and my experiences. The end result was a view of people moving through the city without noticing, causing me to consider the role that technology plays in daily interactions of people in the city. Through the use of my photographs and my research, my project is a critique of the Situationist ideal city, and how I would create such a city.

Jonny Saunders. Jouis-Sense: Violence from Meaning, Meaning from Violence
*(Advisor: Professor Sammy Basu, Politics)*

The first to die in war is not Truth, it is the first to be born. In any war an initial symbolic onslaught must be successful to form a common, true, understanding of evil before any bullets are fired. This symbolic violence takes place at the level of language, imposing a 'universe of meaning' which gives structure to later objective violence. By recasting violence in Nazi Concentration Camps as an expression and re-transmission of a system of meaning, I explore the creation and propagation of violent systems themselves. My argument prods at the questions it begs: how does violence become, to us, seemingly inevitable or necessary; how do we become subjects of violence, and most fundamentally, what does violence *mean*?
Katie Hamburg. Nazism as Romantic Comedy.  
*(Advisor: Professor Sammy Basu, Politics)*

The purpose of this research project was to examine the political significance and implications of popular German films of the 1930s and 1940s. What can we learn from the themes of entertainment films, specifically comedies, about the political visions at stake under the late Weimar and Nazi regimes? How are heroism and laughter represented in relation to modernity and the demands of a functioning society? Themes of the romanticized past, conformity, and exclusionary group laughter were used as lenses through which to compare and analyze the comedies *Lachende Erben* (1933) and *Die Feuerzangenbowle* (1944). While the themes in both films suggest that their political visions were in a state of turbulence and decline, the circumstances of *Lachende Erben* allowed for the articulation of reconciliation and the possibility of a promising democratic future, whereas the circumstances surrounding *Die Feuerzangenbowle* only allowed for a reactionary, nostalgic escape into the past and denial of crisis.

Natalie Lyman. Love & Romance in 21st-Century Hollywood Superhero Films  
*(Advisor: Professor Huike Wen, Chinese)*

Superhero films and media culture constitute America’s contemporary mythology, taking elements from world cultures and mythologies to combine/remake them in fictional worlds heavily influenced by science-fiction and technological advancement. Since 2000, more than eighty Hollywood films and several TV shows focused on superheroes have appeared in the U.S. – and *all of them* include themes of romantic and other types of love. Yet, this topic remains almost entirely unexplored in the scholarly literature on superheroes and comics culture. Why is love so important to superheroes, and furthermore, what is “love” in the superhero universe? How realistic are these images of love, partnership, and family that today reach a massive audience and gross billions of dollars in the movie industry? This project explores the 21st-century Hollywood superhero film in terms of popular media myths about love and romance, as well as themes and qualities of love specific to the superhero genre. Issues of gender and spectatorship are also considered.

Kerry Lee. A Hero that Travels Through Time  
*(Advisor: Professor Huike Wen)*

Although Korean media tends to have a more conservative style when expressing love or romance for viewers, it is still able to present a romantic character that viewers find desirable. Due to this in the last few years, romantic time-travel soap operas like *Faith* and *Rooftop* have been very successful. How is romance and love expressed in two characters that live in different times? In this project, I will show how the time-difference allows these male characters to act as a “hero” in a romantic relationship. How the “hero” responds and progresses his affection to a woman who is from a different time is essential. What is a “hero”? The one who undertakes great trials and hardships and going beyond the limits of his own to achieve fulfillment can be considered a hero. Usually the male protagonist represents this “hero”, someone with idealized attractive qualities of strength and reliability among others. But, are there implications of portraying these romantic interactions in Korean time-traveling televisions dramas for Korean society? Although these romantic relationships between two characters who are from different periods can be very fantasy-like and passionate, they can also be found to be more unrealistic and complicated. Lovers of different periods can create misconceptions that anything is possible in romantic relationships as long as there is love.

These works were completed as part of the Liberal Arts Research Collaborative and supported with generous funding from the Mellon Foundation.
Surabhi Mahajan. The Political Education of Ethnobotany: Going Beyond Native Plants

(Advisor: Professor Jennifer Johns, Biology)

This project was aimed at understanding the Indigenous Ethnobotanical uses behind plants native to the Willamette Valley. I will discuss the research that went behind exploring and in a sense ‘bringing back’ these native plants to Zena in an important endeavor for restoration between Willamette and the Grand Ronde community. This desire has resulted in a Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Zena Farm. The end result of this project has been the identification of native plants in the forest area at Zena and the creation of a trail guide, a Demonstration Garden and an interpretative guide for the garden. Many of the ethnobotanical uses for the plants identified at Zena were done through research and through conversations with the Grand Ronde Community. The ultimate goal of identifying plants native to the Willamette Valley at Zena was to enhance the goal of political education of sustainable agriculture. Through my research I have also learned about how to combine Indigenous and Western knowledge to give a holistic view of topics such as sustainable agriculture that affect both the Western and Indigenous communities.

Katie Buonocore. Transforming Frames, Narratives & Relationships to ‘Place’: Dominant and Subordinated Narratives in Queer Communities and the Effects of the ‘Marriage Equality’ Movement

(Advisor: Professor Emily Drew, American Ethnic Studies)

Over the past decade, gay marriage has risen to the spotlight in national politics. The push for ‘marriage equality’ has had incredible impact on the lives of LGBTQ Americans, from the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act and state-level legislative restructuring to changes in local LGBTQ service organizations to individual experiences. Through in-depth interviews with activists and organizers, as well as a concerted literature review, I have studied these impacts and the recent history of the ‘marriage equality’ movement. I will present my preliminary findings and discuss my research process, presenting a dynamic picture of the wide range of queer experiences and reactions to gay marriage.

Erynn Rebol. Using Two Instruments of Measure

(Advisor: Professor David Craig, Biology)

They say that we use different sides of our brains to see different parts of the world. One side is analytical and precise, the other, creative and intuitive. Which should you use to measure the world around you? At Willamette University, I was given the incredible opportunity to pursue majors in both science and art. While these disciplines are completely opposite, there is a thread of similar purpose that runs through, and leaves them connected. This summer I continued my pursuit of how to use both mediums to better convey ideas and information from my research. Five of us, three artists and two biologists, flew to South Africa to explore the thicket biome of the Western Cape. Three weeks of simultaneous artistic and scientific observations of the natural world gave me unprecedented views on individual perception and interpretation. By contrast and comparison, I came to the realization that the most accurate view of our world is one that comes from using two instruments of measure: Science and Art.
**Monique Rodriguez.** Observations of the Obscured  
(Advisor: Professor Andries Fourie, Art)

This project explores elephant social behavior through direct observations of wild elephants in the Addo National Park in the Cacadu District of South Africa's Eastern Province. I responded to my research by producing a large sculptural installation and displaying it at Project Space in Salem, Oregon.

**Jake Waldner.** "Elephants" and "Oranges" Don't Rhyme  
(Advisor: Professor Andries Fourie, Art)

This project describes the conflict for food and land between elephants and farmers in the Cacadu District. This project explores my research in South Africa and the creation and exhibition of a resulting large scale sculpture at Project Space in Salem this summer.

**Hannah Brown.** Visibility and Concealment in *Ama Lur*: A Nationalist Discourse through the lens of Basque Cinema  
(Advisor: Professor Anna Cox, Spanish)

The construct of a nation has been maintained through various mediums including documentary film. Benedict Anderson theorizes that nations are sustained through visual culture; he emphasizes the role of print capitalism, through novels and newspapers in particular, in “imagining communities,” yet this paper furthers his claim endowing film with the capacity to “image” communities through visuals, which are complemented by sound. In reference to Anderson’s theory, this essay explores the documentary work of Néstor Basterretxea and Fernando Larruquert: *Ama Lur* (1968). In examining layers of contrast in *Ama Lur*, specifically diegetic versus non-diegetic sound and visibility versus concealment, one becomes aware of the rich, albeit threatened, identity of the Basque people under Franco’s dictatorship. The case study of *Ama Lur* proves indispensable not only in re-presenting an oppressed Basque collective, but also in asserting the potential for film to function as an archive for peripheral national identities.

**Amy Snodgrass.**  
(Advisor: Professor Mike Chasar, English)

We are already familiar with the limited options of how to read a printed page. However, when texts are generated to be read on a screen, they set new standards of interactivity. From literary e-journals to Craigslist haikus, each online poem guides a reading that is often more structured than it first appears. Conversely, online marginalia and commenting functions produce collaborative readings which allow more autonomy than ever before. This talk briefly examines the ways that new media poetry restricts and engages reader interaction.

**Emma Jonas.** An Attempt at Visual Restoration in the Age of Projection  
(Advisor: Professor Abigail Susik, Art History)

This presentation chronicles the transformation of a project from field research to the creation of a digital art installation. Emma Jonas explored the interaction between Abstract Expressionism of the 1930s to 1960s and current New Media Art. Originally intent on producing a scholarly article, Jonas was led instead down a more creative path by her research. After attending a New Media Art festival in Montreal and diving into the pages of art history archives, Jonas found that the most suitable way to express her findings was to incorporate them into her own art installation, which will be on display in Willamette's Art Building from Sept. 23 to Oct. 4.

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