Order of Events

1:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks — Dr. William Mitchell
   Dean of The Honors School

Ashley Hoppe (HP/ED)
Christopher Covello (BUBE)
Shane Moore (BUBF)
Blair Fink (AN)

Lexah Coppotelli (EN)
Jillian Morrow (BUBF/BUBA)
Paul Mahajan (BUBF)
Christina Sce (AR/ED)
Lexah Coppotelli  
“The Marriage of True Minds:” Comprehension of Love in Shakespeare  
Chief Advisor: Dr. Margaret Del Guercio  
Second Reader: Dr. Susan Starke

Shakespeare’s works illustrate the comprehensive love formed on the basis of intellectual and emotional compatibility as opposed to divinely ordained or merely sensual love. He critiques courtly the conventions of love and Platonism through satiric deconstruction in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. In addition Shakespeare’s romantic comedies to propose that love is a comprehensive process that develops through courtship, specifically illustrated in plays such as The Taming of the Shrew and Much Ado About Nothing. Comprehensive love illustrates the portrayal of a more rational method of contemplation that foreshadows the Enlightenment Era. This theory of love becomes the new ideal as it illustrates “the marriage of true minds” (1) that is proposed in Sonnet 116. It represents a less spiritual and fate-centered love which incorporates the realistic depiction of human complexity that allows the characters control in their own relationships and independent voices, especially for the female characters.

Ashley Hoppe  
Failing Our Democracy: Civic Education in New Jersey Schools  
Chief Advisor: Dr. Laurel Chehayl  
Second Reader: Dr. Joseph Patten

This project is an examination of civic literacy among recent high school graduates. The author administered surveys to college freshman designed to measure civic literacy. The survey was aligned to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards to determine if the sample retained the information covered during a Kindergarten to Twelfth-Grade education in New Jersey. Using previous national studies in conjunction with this survey the level of civic education was determined to be below par. Finally, ways to remedy the deficiencies are examined.

Christopher M. Covello  
Professional Sports Stadiums and their Effect on the Local Economy  
Chief Advisor: Dr. Patrick O’Halloran  
Second Reader: Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf

The recent surge in the construction of new professional sports stadiums throughout the continental United States has sparked renewed interest in the economic costs and benefits, rekindling interest in researching the economic effect of placing these stadiums in particular locations. This thesis explores how a sports team uses its advantages to gain new amenities from a city without actually working to improve the economic situation of the city they represent. Although these stadiums have little economic impact which is often negative, there is a positive impact in that stadiums bring together the community, encouraging a sense of civic pride. Cost-benefit analysis reveals that these positive non-monetary impacts often outweigh the negative economic impacts. This benefit combined with the monopolistic position of teams in a city influence political decision, explaining why new stadium construction has risen over the past ten years.
This thesis examines the behavioral reasons why corporate managers commit financial statement fraud, focusing on the attitude/rationalization side of the fraud triangle. The fraud triangle theory states that motivation, opportunity and attitude/rationalization all need to exist in unison in order for fraud to occur. This paper first provides background information and statistics about the most common types of financial statement fraud schemes and the type of industries where fraud is most likely to occur. Sources will be used to prove that the main motivating factor behind financial statement fraud is behavioral, that attitude/rationalization is the most important aspect of the fraud triangle. This paper concludes with a case study of one of the most famous fraud scandals of modern times, Enron. The paper thus provides insight on why this scandal occurred and offers advice on what the corporation could have done to avoid this scandal.

Paul Mahajan
Midas Touch: How stable is Gold?

This research explores the financial return of gold over two business cycles (1990-2009) compared to the return of the S&P 500 and inflation. Utilizing this analysis, the paper examines the possibilities of gold both as a possible stable growth asset and as a value-adding asset during periods of market volatility.
Blair Fink
Understanding a Native American Tribes's Struggle for Federal Recognition
Chief Advisor: Dr. Richard Veit
Second Reader: Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf

Previous research has focused on the federal tribal recognition process from the perspective of the government and of tribes already recognized. While these perspectives are important, it is also necessary to understand the process from the perspective of tribes currently unrecognized by the government. This study focuses on the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe of Bridgeton New Jersey and its current pursuit of federal recognition. The tribe has been involved in the process since the 1980s and expects to have the petition completed by the end of the first quarter of 2010. The process has been very stressful for the tribe as its recognition committee attempts to meet the ever-changing demands of the Office of Federal Acknowledgement. While there are many negatives of the process, there is also a silver lining. Tribal members are constantly uncovering new information about their ancestors and their role in preserving tribal culture. Although the process is demanding, tribal members are excited about the information they are uncovering and they believe the benefits of federal recognition far outweigh any negative aspects of the process. On the other hand other tribes such as the Sand Hill Band of Lenape and the Cherokee believe the federal recognition process is unnecessary. They believe they should not have to prove their existence because they were here prior to Europeans. These differing viewpoints demonstrate the rich and vibrant debate that exists as long as tribes are forced to submit petitions to receive recognition and benefits from the federal government.

Christina Sce
Georgia O'Keeffe
Chief Advisor: Prof. Vincent DiMattio
Second Reader: Prof. Nick Aristovulous

Georgia O’Keeffe, an incredible artist, was one of the first women to break through the gates of male dominance in art. She will be forever famous because of her unbelievable strength. Told at times that what she was doing was impossible, she none the less made it possible, and never let anything bring her down. Many claimed her work represents female sexuality, but O’Keeffe responded that she painted what she saw. She wanted people to see flowers the way she saw them up close. She believed in herself and kept painting, forever remembered for her art