

## AM Senior Seminar Topics Fall 2021

Simon Burns: "Soft Power and American Film"

In recent years a perception of America's declining global status has become a topic of increasing concern to Americans across a wide range of backgrounds. I believe that some of this worry does not take into consideration the enormous capacity of American so as the dominant superpower.

Katie Egan : "Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Mental Health at Skidmore College"

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years, I hope to start a conversation about how the VA may be used as a toolkit for other providers or healthcare institutions across the U.S.

Katie Kenna : “ The Imagined Community in the Wilderness: An American Tragedy on Big Moose Lake ”

This work aims to dissect the relationship between an event and the place in which it occurred. The 1906 murder of Grace Brown on Big Moose Lake continues to echo in the minds of Americans, as translations of the story continue to be adapted, ideologically warping to their corresponding years of production. Little progress has been made towards understanding how the murder has impacted Big Moose Lake or how Big Moose Lake, hidden in the wilderness, has impacted the dramatization of the murder. Further, little effort has been made towards the investigation of the role the murder played in establishing a cultural identity of the lake and its surrounding communities. My goal is to understand the social, political, economic, and historical complexities of Big Moose through the lens of the immensely culturally significant event of Grace Brown's death. I intend to weave together two narratives about the lake, studying a changing landscape over time, answering the question; who has ownership of this land? I argue the increase of American privatization of the “wild spaces” of Big Moose reflects changes in American ideals and the encroaching power of industry. This power continues to impact the lake, dooming history to repeat itself. The same ideologies of wealth and prosperity that displaced the Indigenous people of the region and that resulted in the murder of Grace Brown and her unborn child are forever altering the meaning of Big Moose Lake and complicating the question of who owns it.

Sam Knox : “The American Housing Crisis: An Analysis of Power and Exploitation”

The ever-changing American Housing System has not sufficiently served the entirety of the United States population. With the introduction of new legislation that affects housing prices, access to affordable housing, the process of eviction, and more, renters' and landlords' responsibilities are constantly changing. Renters in particular are victimized by the American Housing system, specifically renters of a low-income class status. Now more than ever, the flaws of the Housing System are becoming more obvious as the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the lack of safety measures in place. While many programs are emerging as a way to minimize the damages already done to American citizens, this begs the question as to whether or not these programs will sustain long-term assistance to low-income individuals in need of financial assistance for housing. By taking a look at the efficacy of an organization that is contracted with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Capital Access, this paper explores the power dynamic between renter and landlord, the efficacy of a disaster relief program

in response to COVID, and how our lack of preparation, and our response, displays American attitudes toward the lower-income class, as well as our American values.

Isaac Markman : “ Don’t Be All, Like, Uncool: The Cause and Effect of The Real Housewives on Popular Culture ”

and consulting oral histories, I analyze how technology has transformed children's lives since the '80s to discern the effects of the cellphone and social media on pre-teens and teens' common behaviors, hobbies, and values. I argue that, although technology is continuously altering perceptions of childhood throughout history, the introduction of the cell phone and social media has greatly altered definitions of and expedited childhood in a way that both benefits and harms society. I will prove this through an analysis of the generation gap in which I will investigate how perceptions of childhood have changed over the last forty years and in the face of COVID-19 to create an even more prominent generational divide

Lissa Silk: " Teaching Future Generations about Race: Positive Representations

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to the inequalities present in the education system. This is a result of larger systemic discrimination against marginalized people in the United States.