Vatican II: Non-Catholic Reception and Perception

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Before the 1960s, Catholics and non-Catholics had little to no interaction with each other in the religious arena. But, after the Second Vatican Council, tensions lessened due to the rise in ecumenism - the striving toward Christian unity. After Vatican II, non-Catholics had mixed feelings toward the council. Some saw it as a beacon of hope, while others thought it distracting from their own missions. This paper will discuss a brief overview of Catholic councils, the lead up to Vatican II, the proceedings of the council, the initial reception by non-Catholics, and the council's lasting legacy into the 21st century.

Mountain Meadows Massacre: The final Nail in the Coffin on Mormon Acceptance within the Nineteenth Century American Society

Courtney Stithem, History, Spanish, Education
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Historians and society have pushed aside the Mountain Meadows Massacre as a tragic and controversial, but minor event in the history of the American frontier and the Mormon Church. Until recent decades, historians have generally downplayed the massacre's significance within the larger historical context. In 1857, when the massacre took place, the Utah territory and the Mormon Church were already embroiled in a controversial conflict with the United States and were struggling to defend their already dubious position within American society. The seemingly senseless murder of more than one-hundred innocent immigrants within the territory did not help to improve the situation any. This event remains a sensitive subject among many members of the Church; however, Church officials cannot deny the massacre's significance as a turning point in the trajectory of Mormonism and the Utah territory. The Mountain Meadows Massacre occurred at a pivotal moment in American history that negatively altered the gentile, non-Mormon, perception of Mormonism, the Church, and the already established society within the Utah Territory. Although not the only event to damage the Church's image, the Mountain Meadows Massacre ended any chance of acceptance within the larger American society until the late twentieth century.

Historical Geographic Information Systems and the 1896 St. Louis Tornado: Transforming Historic Narrative into Spatial Format

Grace Kellner, Environmental Science, Geography
Faculty Mentor: Stephen O'Connell

Historical Geographic Information Systems (HGIS) is a tool of relatively recent development that employs both geographic knowledge and historical information for its creation. It visually displays historic data, and can show one point in time or change of an area over any number of years. HGIS can utilize data for quantitative analysis of traditionally qualitative historical studies. Examples of use are wide-ranging, and the disciplines in which HGIS can be utilized are numerous. This particular study uses HGIS to analyze St. Louis and East St. Louis in 1896, the year of a devastating tornado, for the purpose of tracking local environmental changes, the path of the tornado, tornado damage, and loss of life. The process of creation included choosing a historic base map to digitize, digitizing the historic city roads, tracking the path of the tornado, and plotting damage and loss of life using a compilation of narrative information published soon after the tornado. This is only the start of a database of information about
St. Louis at the time of the tornado and the completed product can be used for research regarding St. Louis at the turn of the century or for research about the 1896 tornado.

**Caddo Ceramics: A GIS Approach for Studying Ceramic Attributes Across the Caddo Landscape**

Jeremy Johnson, Geography, History  
Faculty Mentor: Duncan McKinnon

The Caddo are well-known for crafting elaborate ceramics with many variations of form and decoration while following consistent themes of attribute organization and presentation. A Geographic Information System (GIS) can play a significant role in analyzing geospatial distributions tied to these consistent themes across space. For this project I have added an additional 400 Caddo ceramics from sites in east Texas to an existing database of 4000 from sites throughout Arkansas to examine distributional relationships of particular ceramic attributes. Preliminary results demonstrate interaction and exchange of ideas expressed in ceramic themes of attribute organization and presentation throughout the Caddo landscape.

**Arkansas Charter Authorizing Panel Process**

Michael Stout, Political Science & Sociology  
Faculty Mentor: Joe Howard

Charter schools have become increasingly popular since the implementation of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). As of the 2012-2013 school year, 524 new charters were issued across the country, raising the total count to 6,187 operating charter schools (CER, 2013). In Arkansas, a single body, the “Charter Authorizing Panel” (CAP) is the only entity allowed to authorize the opening of a charter school in the state. In this study, I will determine what factors lead to a successful charter school application in the state of Arkansas, while comparing how the process differs in other states. By reviewing applications and interviewing members of the CAP, it will be determined how an application is accepted or denied. Furthermore, the Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013 (AQCSA) identifies the legislative intent of charter schools with 6 principles that will also be used for analysis of whether each applicant addresses them.

**Policy Innovation and Diffusion of Voter Identification Laws from 2002 to 2012**

Blake Brizzolara, Political Science, Interdisciplinary Studies  
Faculty Mentor: Joe Howard

Since the turbulent 2000 presidential election, states across the country have considered and passed voter identification laws. Supporters of voter identification laws argue the laws are necessary to prevent voter fraud, but opponents assert that voter identification laws disenfranchise groups who lack a valid ID such as racial minorities and the elderly. However, the contributing factors that push legislatures to adopt voter ID remain unclear. In this study, I will evaluate the policy innovation and diffusion of voter identification laws from 2002 to 2012. Policy innovation diffusion evaluates the factors that impact adoption of a policy innovation. The occurrence that will be analyzed in this study is state adoption of voter identification laws. In this study, the dependent variable will be state adoption of voter identification. The independent variables will cover four areas of influences for state adoption of voter identification laws: motivation, resources and obstacles, other policies, and external factors. The analysis shows that instances of voter fraud within the state, economic prosperity, state government ideology, neighboring state adoption of voter ID, and adoption of centralized voter lists have a significant impact on the likelihood of voter ID adoption.
Rethinking Ecology: Framing a Zen Buddhist Eco-Praxis

Lake Davidson, Philosophy, Asian Studies
Faculty Mentor: Nicholas Brasovan

When observing the state of the natural environment, it is most certainly clear that it is being depleted and its health is declining. The well-being of the earth and its inhabitants have become subject to millennia of anthropocentrism and anthropocentric transformation across cultures. The heavy influence of the received tradition of Christianity in the lives and practices of citizens in the West, I argue, is what is to blame. Humans eagerly lay waste to the natural environment in the name of themselves, in order to promote their own selfish desires, and to increase capital. I contend that it will help to look to classical traditions of Asia, namely Zen Buddhism, to cultivate a robust, cogent, and fruitful eco-praxis. One may find that upon this construction of a Zen eco-praxis that humankind is not separate ontologically and axiologically to the natural environment, but it is an interactive part of the natural order. I will attempt this construction of a Zen eco-praxis and advocate its adoption in order to benefit all sentient beings by laying out some basic concepts in Zen practice. I argue that these practices and ideas will help to produce an improved awareness in regards to environmental ethics.

Religiosity and Environmentalism of UCA Campus Ministry Students

Ashton Wills, Sociology, Political Science, Honors Interdisciplinary Studies
Faculty Mentor: Gordon Shepherd

The objective of this research is to determine the relationship between religiosity and environmentally conscious attitudes and behaviors of University of Central Arkansas Campus Ministry Students. The data was collected from a survey constructed by the researcher based upon survey questions from prominent social science surveys including the General Social Survey and the Baylor Study on Religion. Questions from the survey have been combined to create two indexes for measuring religiosity and three indexes for measuring environmentalism. Survey results were controlled for the different campus ministries that participated in the study. The data was analyzed by using SPSS for calculating means, frequencies, and correlations. There were significant positive correlations between the different Religiosity measures and also between the different Environmentalism measures, but statistical analysis failed to demonstrate any correlation between Religiosity and Environmentalism among UCA Campus Ministry students. At the same time, there was a weak, positive correlation between Political Attitudes and Environmental Concerns. Of the campus ministries surveyed, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry came closest to showing a connection between their religiosity and environmentalism.

“An Analysis of Non-Game and Endangered Wildlife State Income Tax Check-Off Programs”

Jill Carlson, Public Administration Economics
Faculty Mentor: Kim Hoffman

This project looks at State Income Tax Check-Off Programs for non-game and endangered wildlife. In 1972, the Federal Government allowed taxpayers to donate $1 of their federal taxes to a special presidential campaign fund. States soon followed with their own check off programs starting with Colorado’s implementation of the wildlife check-off program in 1977. This research focuses on the Non-Game and Endangered Wildlife check-off programs at the state level and their impact on state wildlife agency budgets. According to the Federation of Tax Administrators, as of 2003, 35 states participated in the Non-Game and Endangered Wildlife Check-Off Program. This study describes the revenues collected in these states and analyzes trends over time. Four states are chosen from each region in the country for an in-depth review of the check-off revenues collected and the adequacy and stability of those revenues for the state wildlife budget.
GMOs and Glyphosate; Blazing a Toxic Trail

Michelle Ellington-Burns
Environmental Science
Faculty Mentor: Kim Little

In 1996, Monsanto introduced the first crops that were genetically modified to be resistant to glyphosate. By 2013, GMO crops covered ~170 million acres. Meanwhile, there has been a remarkable increase in herbicide use, up 5900% from 1999 to 2011. Glyphosate is now the most widely applied herbicide on the planet. However, research over the last two decades has shown that glyphosate can be correlated with a disturbing number of negative effects on ecosystems and on the very crops designed for its use. New GMO crops are currently being designed to be resistant to multiple families of herbicides in order to combat weeds that are resistant to glyphosate. Considering the increasingly lax legislation governing the introduction of GMOs, policy decision makers may be setting the stage for dramatic and irreversible environmental consequences and serious risks to human health.

POSTERS

The Effect of Corn Production on the Size of the Hypoxic Zone in the Gulf of Mexico

Loren Biggs, Environmental Science
Faculty Mentor: Mary Sue Passe-Smith

Each year the Gulf of Mexico experiences a depletion of oxygen due to an algal bloom. The area with little to no oxygen is referred to as the Dead Zone. The algal bloom that causes this zone results from excess nutrients flowing into the Gulf from the Mississippi River watershed. Much of the acreage of the watershed is used for agricultural purposes, and one of the major crops produced is corn. This study applies GIS technologies to determine if there is a correlation between the amount of corn produced and the size of the Dead Zone. Corn Production and the total acreage of the Dead Zone are compared for 2002 and 2007.

Predictive Habitat Modeling for Queen Snakes in Arkansas

Derek Filipek, Environmental Science
Faculty Mentor: Mary Sue Passe-Smith
Queen Snakes (Regina septemvittata) are a small aquatic snake species found in streams and rivers in the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. The range distribution of this species is mostly intact except for an isolated, disjunct population found in Arkansas (and possibly southern Missouri) with the nearest population found in extreme eastern Mississippi. Little research has been performed with this species in the state of Arkansas, including studies on its distribution. This species is not known to be abundant in the state and can be confirmed only from a handful of the state’s river/stream systems, primarily in the Boston Mountains ecoregion. The Mulberry River in this ecoregion contains the highest known abundance of this species of this species in the state. Habitat modeling in an attempt to expand the known range of this species in Arkansas would be beneficial for a population that may be genetically distinct from eastern populations and should potentially be given a threatened status. The final predicted habitat model of this project contains rivers/streams primarily in the Boston Mountains ecoregion but also contains sections of river/streams in the Ozark Mountains, Arkansas River Valley, and Ouachita Mountains.

**Mapping Change on the Arkansas River**

**Jeremy Johnson, Geography, History**
Faculty Mentor: Kim Little

The course of the Arkansas River has changed drastically over the years. A historical approach was used to visually show these changes from 1940 to the present.

**Predictive Habitat Modeling for the Bengal Tiger in India**

**Alyson Stepina, Environmental Science, Biology Track**
Faculty Mentor: Mary Sue Passe-Smith

Realistically, wild tigers will more than likely become extinct during the lifetime of Generation X. According to World Wildlife Fund, in the last century, 97 percent of the world’s wild tiger population has diminished. Habitat destruction and poaching are two of the leading causes for the drastic decline in this majestic species. The goal of this project was use GIS and layers representing particular types of land cover, access to water, and other important habitat needs to identify locations in India that would be suitable for Bengal tiger preserves. Bengal tigers are in need of major help; if humans are largely responsible for their predicament, perhaps humans and our technology can assist in getting them out of it.

**PANEL**

**The Essentialist Society**

**Peyton Hartford**
Faculty Mentor: Taine Duncan

Understanding women in a rational aspect has primarily been the common way of thought. Is she a Mrs. or Ms? How many children does she have? Who is she married to? All of these questions are predominately asked when describing another woman. Though generally when you describe men, questions are asked of his essence. In this paper I will argue how to undermine inequality society must first view women from their essence and not how they relate to others.
Martha: John D. Caputo’s Ultimate Material Girl and Mary Daly’s Liberated Feminist

Savannah Moix, English, Religious Studies
Faculty Mentor: Taine Duncan

Within the postmodern, theological framework of John D. Caputo’s The Insistence of God: A Theology of Perhaps, the biblical Martha of Luke, Lazarus, and resurrection fame is the quintessential example of radical, pragmatic materialism. She takes part in a religion devoid of religion which acknowledges and works to the benefit of Jesus’ animality, unlike her merely meditative counterpart, Mary, who sees Jesus on a higher plane of immanence. Classically-speaking, Martha is judged as the busy, domestic woman while Mary is the spiritually-in-tuned beholder of heavenly priorities. Mary Daly’s Beyond God the Father explores and condemns feminine oppositional and stereotypical binaries in the forms of the Honest Matron and the prostitute who descends from Eve. Martha constitutes as neither, and she is more than a mere bed and sandwich maker for houseguests. Martha epitomizes what Daly prescribes for female liberation: self-becoming in verb form rather than that of a noun. Thus, for Caputo and, by extension, Daly, Martha, the unique combination of doer and contemplator, supersedes and breaks down stereotypes of the feminine persona because of her physical acts of service and hospitality.

A Transcendence of the Abject

Colby Sansom, Religious Studies, Gender Studies
Faculty Mentor: Taine Duncan

When applying the themes of Julia Kristeva, dealing with the abject, and James Cone, the development of the “theological imagination,” it becomes apparent that the same message which has offered liberation to generations of oppressed Black Americans can be expanded to others. Considering the oppression faced by women in fundamentalist Islam, not only must a message of liberation be adapted by and for them, but it must be palatable in a manner which allows for them to reclaim that which on the most basic of levels belongs to them, sexuality. Effectively, by reclaiming and fully recognizing that which has been used to oppress them, their own sexuality, these women will not only find transcendence, but a fuller conception of their humanity.

The Vietnam War: A Fiction Conceived in a Perfect Storm

Hawkins Hutson, History, Political Science
Faculty Mentor: Kim Little

The war in Vietnam took place from 1950-1975. The war has been heavily scrutinized, from many angles by many professionals in many fields. Historians and political scientists have looked at the Presidents involved. The military aspect has been categorized. Individual primary accounts and “tell alls” have been published. And unfortunately, it sometimes seems that the War has been tidied up and placed in a simple box with all the answers. The Vietnam War is chocked up by many as the only American military defeat. Many have beliefs stating the great American juggernaut was stymied in Vietnam and left running for cover. Stories and images of the Kent State Massacre and other anti-war movements portray the war in a highly negative light. The media was portrayed throughout as being negative, and causing the American people to turn against the war. However, these commonly accepted facts that the war was lost and that the media turned against the war effort do not hold up well with actual study. A small, vocal minority has written accepted history about the Vietnam War, the facts, and the media coverage about the war, leaving true facts lost in time to many people.
The Progressive Amendments and the South: How the 16th through 19th Amendments Shaped Arkansas and the Southern United States

Kenneth Stice, History, Political Science, Honors Interdisciplinary Studies
Faculty Mentor: Chris Craun

Although the Progressive Era amendments led to an increase in crime and slightly less disposable income for the middle class, the amendments also led to greater political suffrage as well as a stronger society with more tax revenue for Arkansas and the rest of the South’s middle class within a decade of each amendment’s passage. The Progressive Era was a time that greatly shaped America, with the most change being created from the 4 amendments which were passed during this time period. These amendments are the 16th (income tax), 17th (direct election of senators), 18th (Prohibition), and 19th (women’s suffrage). Ratification started in 1913 with the 16th amendment and ended in 1920 with the 19th amendment. The 16th amendment led to a stronger and better developed society for the South. The 17th and 19th amendments led to greater political suffrage for the Southern middle class. Although the 18th amendment was designed to fight a social problem and had good intentions, the amendment was poor policy and greatly increased crime in the South and limited personal freedom.

The Days of the ‘Dillo: The Armadillo World Headquarters as a Counterculture Symbol

Kelsey Riddle, History, Spanish
Faculty Mentor: Kim Little

The Armadillo World Headquarters, a landmark music venue that opened its doors in 1970, was one of the most important catalysts that allowed the Austin music scene to flourish. Although the venue closed after ten years of operation, it holds an almost mythical place in the lore of Austin’s past, with the nine-banded armadillo continuing to serve as a visual symbol of Texan creativity. The venue served as a physical space for the counterculture and mainstream culture to come together, laying the groundwork for a profoundly artistic and musical city. The closing of the Armadillo World Headquarters is still regarded as a cataclysmic event, with one loyal patron and employee calling it the “worst thing that ever happened to Austin.” In reality, the Austin music scene continued to thrive, and the venue’s closing served more as a symbol of an identity crisis within the city itself. With its massive size and highly visual presence establishing it as an Austin symbol, the Armadillo World Headquarters was able to do more than just give Austin a name as a music town: it created an image of Austin as a place where creativity is valued and seemingly unrealistic dreams come to life.

Gender and Ideological Affiliations: An Evaluation of Female Sexuality and Reproductive Rights in the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany

Jennifer Barker, History, Economics
Faculty Mentor: Kenneth Barnes

Rather than repressing women, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) did more than the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in the period between 1949 and 1990 to guarantee women’s sexual and reproductive rights through access to sex education, abortion rights, and economic incentives favorable to motherhood. Evidence from a number of primary sources (including the Federal Statistical Office of the GDR, the 1991 German Social Survey, and legislation from both the GDR and the FRG) and secondary sources (including Political Psychology, Feminist Studies, and the European Sociological Review) will illustrate that the GDR (East Germany) supported the dual role of women as wage earners and mothers while the FRG (West Germany) failed to provide additional resources that would allow women to work outside the home and fulfill social expectations of motherhood. This research will further illustrate that the leadership of Communist-controlled East Germany was to some degree influenced by a desire to oppose Western hostility toward sexual freedom, resulting in cultural norms and
legislation in the GDR that were significantly more supportive of female family planning methods -- including contraceptives and abortion -- than sexual norms and similar legislation in the FRG.

The Symbolic Forms of Oppression of Women in Television

Chandler Gaines, Sociology, Gender Studies
Faculty Mentor: Lynne Rich

Representation in the media is known to shape societal perceptions of various groups while at the same time being influenced by the established stereotypes for said groups. Studies have been done on the representation of women in television shows and the proportion of speaking parts held by women as compared to men, but the literature doesn’t seem to touch on the symbolic roles women play within relationships portrayed in television. In addition to being concerned with how much we see and hear women on screen, it is important to account for how these women are portrayed in age, height, body shape, relationships, jobs, as compared to their male counterparts. In my analysis of selected television episodes, I investigated the dynamics of male-female relationships and assessed the symbolic forms of oppression depicted. The findings within the context of each show reveal the possibility that women in television experience a symbolic oppression that is both created by and influences the society that views these programs. I found that in most scenarios, the male within the relationship was dominant in all aspects tested with few exceptions, suggesting the oppression of women is present in television shows through symbolic representations of power within relationships.

Father Knows Best: The Social Construction of Fatherhood in Law

Colby Qualls, Sociology, Political Science, Honors Interdisciplinary Studies
Faculty Mentor: Lynne Rich

The legal construction of fatherhood in the U.S. was originally based on the marital presumption. With the advent of technology, courts are now able to determine the biological father. Courts must now decide to apply either the marital presumption or biological imperative in establishing fatherhood. I analyzed the content of 10 different legal decisions on the state level to see which is more commonly applied. Out of the ten cases, it was evenly split with cases leaning in varying degrees. The results confirm that courts are trying to represent the diverse forms of fatherhood through flexible interpretations.

Hobbesian Liberalism: A Study of Proto-Liberal Ideas in Leviathan

Katelyn Wilkins, Political Science, Economics
Faculty Mentor: Clay Arnold

Thomas Hobbes advocated for a strong government that centralizes power and maintains law and order. His government quells the notions of freedom of speech, religion, press, and association in its attempt to achieve law and order. Many think that Hobbes's political theory stands in stark contrast to the liberal views of his fellow Englishman, John Locke. However, Hobbes is more liberal than many would suppose. A careful study of his conceptions of human nature, society, and liberty reveals his proto-liberal ideas. This paper demonstrates Hobbes's proto-liberalism as found in his work Leviathan. Evidence in support of my thesis includes Hobbes's idea that government is based upon the consent of the governed, as well as his conceptions of equality and individualism. These liberal ideas constitute the foundation for Hobbes's political theory as found in Leviathan.
So You Say You Want a Revolution: Capitalism and Communism in “Divergent”

Amanda Wilson, English
Sonya Fritz

The Abnegation feed the factionless because they are Communist; no person is left behind; Erudites are capitalist because they are more focused on themselves. The entire faction system is a communist (Marxist-Leninist) failure. Roth did not set out to write a fictional world based on historic socio-political theory; it is simply the consequence of creating a culture based on separation by individual tendencies. Anytime there are ideas that are completely oppositional there will be some type of revolution; which is where the first book of the series ends, on the brink of war between Abnegation and Erudite. The purpose of the faction system is to help the audience understand that there have always been extreme differences in the ways that people believe societies will succeed and what will cause them to fail.

Personal Artifacts: Artificial Beings as Persons

Timothy Havens, Philosophy
Faculty Mentor: Ron Novy

An artificial being can be identified as a person. To argue that an artificial being can or cannot be identified as a person we need to specify the minimal necessary conditions for personhood, where personhood is the qualifications a being must meet to be a person. Any entity lacking these requirements is not a person. For the purposes of this paper, a person is a being with the characteristics of consciousness, reasoning, self-motivated activity, the capacity to communicate, and the presence of self-concepts. These characteristics are manifested as the qualities of sapience, sentience, and selfhood. An artificial being is a purposeful synthesis of artifacts to form an entity, which possesses “perceived awareness and perceived responsiveness.” This perceived awareness and responsiveness is built upon by learning processes, database storage, and forecasting, necessary to a person and to express the characteristics of personhood. Personhood may also require one to have a capacity for emotion for selfhood and conscious experience, but with the narrow and functionalist nature of my argument it requires perceived awareness only. It only needs to be perceived because tests only examine the materialist product, using those actions to predict what has, is, and will happen within a perceived consciousness.

Decentering Humanity: Ethics and the Ultimate Concern

Keith Witty, Religious Studies, English
Faculty Mentor: Clayton Crockett

I argue that the radical truth of Christianity is that it offers a way to view humanity as just another animal and not the center of the universe. Using the work of Paul Tillich, Slavoj Zizek, Alain Badiou, and Friedrich Nietzsche I approach the problem of understanding ethics without universals. I argue that the idea of God as a hyper-being has resulted in Christianity allowing each individual person to view his or her thoughts and actions as that which are of ultimate concern to the universe. In light of this, I then argue for understanding that an ethic is something that is created in response to an event that hinges on one’s own perspective.

Strategic Loyalty: The Dual Nature of Equiano’s Performance as a Loyal Slave

Nadia Akins, English, Sociology
Faculty Mentor: Lori Leavell
Olaudah Equiano’s The Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African (1789) describes his experiences of enslavement and freedom. My paper reveals how Equiano uses strategic loyalty to develop advantageous relationships with strong white individuals around him, due to the necessity of these relationships as a black individual with few rights. Equiano’s awareness of the racial dynamic controlling his life explains why he presents himself as the ideal, reliable servant to advance from slave to freeman. Recent scholarship by Leon Jackson and Matthew Pethers observes the techniques that Equiano uses to highlight his status by making use of common literary tropes by black authors like the talking book and deferential tone. Building on the insights of Frank Kelleter on how his assimilation to European culture influences his outlook on himself, I illustrate how these elements work together to show Equiano’s awareness of himself and audience in his narrative. He presents himself as loyal to his masters and learns to read, write, speak English, and gain navigation skills in turn for his faithful service. Fidelity is the strategy that he uses to manipulate his situation, because of his awareness of the need to have strong relationships with whites.

_Kiran Kim, International Studies, Sociology_  
Faculty Mentor: Michael Yoder

Relations between the countries of South Korea and Japan have deteriorated in recent years. The dispute centers on disagreement between the two over the ownership of the islets of Dokdo, the Korean name, and Takeshima, the Japanese name, which are additionally referred to as the "Liancourt Rocks" in the West. The islets, a mere 0.18745 square kilometers in size, are located 87.4 kilometers from South Korea and 157.5 kilometers from Japan. The primary reasons that each country lays claim to them deal with the interpretation of Korea’s historical claim, Japan’s stance that the islets were terra nullius until the 1890s, and more currently the rich fishing waters and possibility of fossil fuel deposits within the islets economic exclusive zone. This paper will trace the evolution of the dispute through time by providing content analysis of historical evidence and media coverage, as well as analyses of scholarly literature, and will provide an overview of the changing foreign relations between the two countries resulting from the ongoing dispute.

_Party Affiliation and Foreign Policy_  
_Juan Mayen, International Studies, Public Administration_  
Faculty Mentor: Tucker Staley

As we see presidents come and go through the White House I ask myself, how did this president leave his print in American foreign policy? Whether a Republican or a Democrat what type of policies and structures did his administration attempt to implement within the state department? In this project I embark upon “How does political party affiliation impact presidential oversight of the federal state department”. The first matter to be addressed is the presidents we are taking a brief look at, the first is Ronald Reagan, the second George H Bush, the third Bill Clinton, and the fourth and current President Barrack Obama. Then we proceed to look what type of policies this president aimed to institute and how he hopes to see them follow through the lines of bureaucracy and politics. Additionally we find Republican presidents seek to impose a tighter control of the State department with political appointees filling most of the positions available with selective people. On the other hand presidents affiliated with the Democratic party also institute political appointees. However, recent past presidents have engaged often directly within the process of foreign affairs and control to a lesser extent the policies implemented within the bureaucracy.