

“Genres are essentially literary institutions, or social contracts between a writer and a specific public, whose function is to specify the proper use of a particular cultural artifact”

-- Fredric Jameson *The Political Unconscious*

Call for Proposals

Undergraduate Literature Conference, Spring 2017: Genre Bending

Conference Date: Friday, April 14th

The theme for this year’s conference is “Genre Bending.” If genres tend to “specify [their] proper use,” then exciting things happen when literature disrupts the expectations set by traditional categories of literature, habitual ways of reading, or typical ways of thinking about a subject. Exciting things also happen when readers and scholars challenge these same expectations, when different perspectives, creativity, eccentricity, opposition, or adulation make us rethink literary works, genres, and conventions. We invite student work that addresses any form of “genre bending” in literature.

Topics may include:

- literary experimentation, innovation, or creative destruction in relationship to literary traditions and generic conventions
- African American, Latina/o, and Asian American genres or traditions
- alternative or oppositional genres
- LGBTQIA literature
- re-evaluations of literary works that have been rejected because of their genre status

We also invite student work that disrupts, crosses, remixes, or otherwise “bends” scholarly genres, including:

- multi-modal presentation formats
- work that employs computational analytical methods
- work that is both creative and critical

Types of Proposals:

This year’s conference will feature panels of speakers, roundtables, “poster” and digital presentations, and works-in-progress discussions. It will be a showcase of undergraduate work in all stages of development and is designed to acquaint attendees with an array of things that have and can be done in the Literature major.

Proposal Deadline: Friday, March 3rd

To submit a proposal, use the “Undergraduate Literature Conference 2017 Proposal Form” and submit via email to pittulc2017@gmail.com or in hard copy at 526 CL (English Dept Main Office)