

# HONORS V

**Section Moderator: Devon Boan**  
**Hitch Science Building 408**  
**7:00 – 9:30 PM**

**7:00-7:30**

**“Whose Truth? A Study of the Influences of Orientalism in Modern American Journalism”**

Rachel C. Allen  
Faculty Advisor: Linda J. Quigley

Edward Said posited in 1979 that historical Western perceptions of Asians were merely representations of the East projected upon it by the West, having little to do with actual fact. This theory, Orientalism, states that all Asian nations from Turkey to Japan have commonalities in their cultures and mindsets, these cultures and mindsets are opposite to those of the West and they are inherently inferior to those of the West.

China's growing importance in the world has made it an increasingly major focus of the West, culminating thus far in the intense global attention on the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Consequently, large events in China are covered extensively in major American newspapers. However, American reporting on Chinese events is often distorted because of the influence of Orientalism on American society. Coverage from The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, CNN and other respected American news sources all show obvious Orientalist influences, and in some cases can be shown to be entirely racist and false.

The prejudice in these articles constitutes a failure on the part of American journalists to provide balanced and fair coverage of China. By presenting an overview of historical Orientalism and an analysis of recent American reporting on China, this thesis demonstrates the influence of Orientalism on American journalism and how this influence leads American journalists to provide biased, incomplete, and uninformed coverage of events in China.

Discipline: Honors /Journalism and Asian Studies

**7:30-8:00**

**“Regimes of Extraordinary Ability: An Analysis of the Role of Governments in Democratic Transitions in Latin America”**

Melanie K. Bengtson  
Faculty Advisors: Dr. Nathan Griffith, Dr. Paolo Boero, Dr. Howard Cochran

This honors thesis examines three different methods of government intervention in democratic transitions as hypothesized by Samuel P. Huntington, a political theorist who suggested that transition under a strong, authoritarian state might yield a stronger democracy in the long run. Huntington's processes outline models of the authority through which economic and political liberalization can occur. Success can be measured in economist Milton Friedman's terms: economic growth and liberalization, along with political freedom and little government intervention. Does Huntington's argumentation about a state-driven transition lead to Friedman's freedom?

This thesis seeks to find the most successful method of transition to democracy, measured in Friedman's terms. Using case studies from Latin America, this paper analyzes six transitions that have occurred since 1970 and then identifies which set of countries has maintained the highest and most consistent levels of economic and political freedom.

Using data that traces the levels of political and economic freedom in six Latin American countries (Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Mexico and Bolivia), this paper draws conclusions about not only the method of transition to democracy, but also the order in which that transition occurs (economic liberalization first or political liberalization first).

Discipline: Honors /Political Science

**8:00-8:30**

**“Control Through Constant Knowledge: An Analysis of the Stasi’s Effects on Audio Technology”**

John G. Gieger

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Daniel Wujcik

Over 125 years, audio technologies rapidly changed from 19<sup>th</sup> century inventions of curiosity into complex societal components of ubiquitous mobility and pervasiveness of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. From a pioneer frontier, audio has adapted to democratization and idolization, consumerism and materialism, and social integration and mass portability, to become a powerful force, channeled and reworked through renovation and utilitarian pragmatism. Through such developments even more social guidance and power was achieved.

Products of audio innovation have changed modern cultural identities, a fact obscured by the traditional preoccupation of audio scholars with the mass-consumer market and popular music. It follows that other events in history that have significantly transformed the development of audio are neglected. This thesis will examine the relationship between the Ministerium für Staatssicherheit, or Stasi, and the development of audio technology during the Cold War Era in East Germany. 1950 to 1989, the lifespan of the MfS (Ministerium für Staatssicherheit) is the chosen constraints of analysis with a concentration on activities within the East German borders. This topic is seldom discussed by audio engineers and historians alike, but the plan is to map the dramatic changes brought about by the MfS in audio to achieve state-security at any cost. Part of this is due to its standing as relatively modern history. During the Cold War, the Stasi created technologies continuing to impact today both in development and practice. Having constant knowledge of all civilians ensures that policies and ideologies were carried out, such that no threats could develop.

Discipline: Honors /Audio Engineering

**8:30-9:00**

**“Let the Rock Cry Out: Understanding Practical Ways Ministries Make Alternative Music Venues Sustainable”**

Anna Fleming

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Daniel Wujcik

In my personal exploration of ministry venues I recognize a huge disconnect. Their cause is admirable, but oftentimes their means are less than effective. In order to draw in young people, many ministries decide to put on concerts and start music venues to pique teenagers' interests. While ministry leaders have a strong desire to be successful, they do not have the key business understandings to keep holding concerts long term. Ministries spend enormous amounts of money and resources trying to attract youth into their facilities.

Ultimately, a music venue is a great way to minister to teenagers. This idea has created an entire subculture of bands that travel the venue circuit. For my purposes, this study will focus on hardcore and metal, often characterized as heavy music. To minister to this counterculture group, leadership must create an environment that is original and distinctive. Alternative music is a huge part of many teenagers' lives, and, therefore, it is a straightforward way to gain their respect and interest. However, while ministry venues may be popular, they often do not last and maintain results.

My goal is to identify the characteristics of sustainable alternative music venues. By investigating issues of church leadership, revenues, and costs, I will be able to identify the key characteristics. Although the subject of alternative music ministry offers many interesting research opportunities, by narrowing my scope to these few crucial questions, I will be able to add to the body of research in my field of study.

Discipline: Honors /Music Business

**9:00-9:30**

**“The Distribution of Music and the Adaptation of Digital Downloading to the Industry's Business Structure”**

Janelle Hawkes

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Clyde P. Rolston

Andrew Millard called recorded sound one of the “great conveniences of modern life... providing us with cheap and plentiful distraction in the comfort of our own homes.” This has never been more true and prominent than in recent years with the rise of digital downloading. Conveniences being a major factor, consumers are able to receive their desired product in a matter of minutes, or even seconds.

The rise of digital downloading initially sparked fear throughout the music industry, which had primarily based profit on physical sales. Experiences of past shifts in mediums (such as movement from vinyl to cassettes to CDs) had worked out in the favor of the industry; this, however, was a new experience without any measurable comparison to make predictions from.

In very little time, digital downloading became immensely popular amongst younger consumers in particular, with influence spreading. Many claimed that this would take over the music industry quickly, and physical product would be obsolete. Research shows a sustaining support for physical product though, and the switch has not been nearly as quick as previously expected.

While a complete change in mediums may not be out of the realm of possibility, it is not a fact quite yet. However, regular business practices are changing as a result, and digital downloading remains a topic worth discussion as the future holds vast possibilities for the recording industry.

Discipline: Honors /Music Business