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# FALL SEMESTER | DEC. 2020

The Department of Communication Arts at Gordon College is developing leaders who can harness the power of story to make the world a better place. Whether through digital media, film, journalism, public speaking, strategic communication, or original critical research, we seek to reflect the image of our Creator God, developing creative and critical sensibilities that can transform our communities and our world. It's communication for the common good.

The Senior Seminar course functions as a capstone to the academic training and spiritual development of our students in the Communication Arts department. The centerpiece of this course is the Senior Project, a creative or critical exploration showcasing the students' communication knowledge and abilities.

We began the semester by identifying social problems—on our campus, in our communities, in our country, and in our world—and talking about ways in which communication can make a difference. The students were tasked with identifying a specific problem and creating a project for a specific

audience or client that in some way seeks to mitigate the problem for that audience. What you will see today are not merely passion projects—these are creative and focused efforts to demonstrate the power of communication to bring positive change in our world.

It has been a pleasure to walk alongside this year's seniors for this final part of their journey at Gordon College. On behalf of the Communication Arts department, we wish our seniors God's abundant blessings and great joy as they continue to follow his leading.

Grace and peace,

**Christine J. Gardner**, Chair, Department of  
Communication Arts

**Rachel Jong-in Chang Yoo**  
**Chris Underation**



## DAVID BELLO JR.

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### *Opening the Curtain*

According to Oxford Languages, Racism is “prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.” Definition alone, the idea of racism comes nowhere near the emotional, traumatic, and dehumanizing effects exhibited by those who have the unfortunate opportunity of experiencing racism first hand. For my final project, I chose to film a documentary-style video via Zoom depicting close friends as they open up about their personal stories of experiencing racism. The hope is to educate people the effects racism has on one’s life and how to identify racist actions moving forward.



## RACHEL BOVEE

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### *Church in the Digital Age*

The era of digital platforms has flowed into all areas of life including the church. Many churches have come alongside society to incorporate digital elements into their worship and culture. Over the years churches have implemented new mediums and digital platforms including email, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to connect with people. How does this evolution of communication affect the church? How can Christians be good stewards of digital platforms? My project will look to explore how digital platforms influence and affect the nature of church. As we study technology we can learn how to be better stewards of new mediums. My project includes a combination of surveys, interviews, and research that will serve as a resource to assist ministry leaders and pastors as they engage with society in a digital age.



## MATTHEW COLE

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### *Race for the Crown*

In a world where mental health issues plague our society, obesity rates have climbed up to 42.4% nationwide, and people have lost their way with God – what do we do? This documentary follows the stories of students here at Gordon College and how their personal fitness journeys have helped them address the aforementioned questions and so much more! Take a look at the life-altering experience so many young adults are having when they focus on molding and shaping the bodies that God has given them. My hope is to encourage viewers to realize that physical fitness is not something to be feared nor loathed but something that can serve as a helpful tool in growing physically, mentally, and spiritually.



## ADAM KONICKI

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### *Alcoholism in a Time of Quarantine*

This campaign takes a real look into the problem of alcoholism during quarantine. During the Covid-19 pandemic many people were confined to their homes and because of this alcohol sales and consumption rose. Heavy alcohol consumption can lead to or worsen mental health problems such as anxiety. This is something many people are already facing due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. I hope this campaign informs people about the facts of alcoholism and how to get involved in making a difference. My goal is to give others the knowledge to create change in the battle against alcohol addiction.





## MATT LEWIS

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### *AOC: Research Project*

My Senior Project is a research project that goes into the career of the congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The main idea is to try and see what she has done for this country, for better or worse, and is still doing. This mainly solves the problem of what politics can often look like and how one person can create an influence on people and the country as a whole. I will mainly be using articles, videos,

and a documentary about her to give an overview of her life before politics up until the present. I think anyone who is really invested in politics would be interested in this project.

## ELIJAH MARTIN

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### *God and Country: Washington's Current Fascination with Christianity*

As a Christian, navigating today's political landscape can be tricky. It becomes especially hard when political leaders publicly invoke Christian rhetoric as part of their platforms and beliefs. In this case, it is vital for the Christian to discern between this kind of rhetoric that seeks to further the Kingdom of God from that which seeks to elevate and bring power to human leaders. This critical essay intends to examine the use of Christian rhetoric in politics, focusing on that of the current presidential administration. By doing so, it is my hope that the reader can be all the more attentive to when political-Christian rhetoric reveals conflict with Christian values.





# COURTNEY ROBENOLT

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## *Loving Work*

Many people, including myself, find it challenging to walk in our Christian faith in all areas of our lives. We spend a large portion of our time, as adults, at work. This project investigates the question; in a world that appears to be more secular than sacred, how can we live out our faith in our workplace? By creating conversation with professionals, observing real-life examples, and diving into the Word of God, this project will present a unique perspective on how anyone can incorporate their faith into their work. In this expository short film, discover what it means for you to live, work, and share the love of Christ.





## AUTUMN SKY ROBERTS

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### *Organizing an Event through COVID-19*

My time at Gordon did not originally begin in the Communication Arts department. I came to Gordon as an eager Education student. Looking ahead, I had finished two years of my education major and was struggling to find that it was not the path that I thought I had cut out for myself. I panicked and knew that if I wanted a change, I had to act fast. This is where I found the Communication Arts major. This new community has welcomed me and made me feel confident again in my college career. For my capstone project, I have helped plan an event through my internship at Agassiz Village, a nonprofit organization and summer camp for underprivileged youth. Through the time of COVID, our company faced challenges that required some extra effort in venue hunting, funding and fundraising for our annual event. I will be sharing victories as well as the challenges faced in preparation for planning an event during the time of COVID-19.



## **MANDIE SALMON**

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### *Mental Health Advocacy*

In our society, people often speak of the importance of mental health, yet if we ever dare to utter that we are facing issues that may cause us to lose our sanity; we are automatically labeled as weak, crazy or the like. My project will focus on bringing awareness to mental health issues, such as: anxiety, suicidal thoughts, depression, and negative thinking. I will do this through a social media campaign. I want people to know that it is okay to seek help when faced with these issues and feel comfortable enough to talk about them without feeling stigmatized.

We are in a world crisis and now more than ever, people need to feel supported when they are faced with issues concerning the mind. I've learned that communication is a powerful tool through which our voices can be heard. Words are more powerful than we think them to be, they can shape social worlds and effect changes in society.

# MATTHEW SWANSON

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## *Reflecting on the Increase of Online Shopping and the effects it has on Our Lifestyle*

For centuries, humans have bought and sold products in person. Word of mouth, newspapers and daily interactions were essential to this style of life. With the convenience of electronics, we have the luxury of staying inside our homes. However, do we ever stop to think about how traditional businesses are slowly losing traction in favor of more convenient options? Are families wanting to start up a business bound to fail? Now with the ongoing pandemic e-commerce has skyrocketed with record-breaking sales numbers. This article examines the Increase of online shopping and the effects it has on our lifestyle/mental health.





## ASHLEY WHALEN

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### *Depression Among Us*

Depression and anxiety have become increasingly prevalent in today's college students, with many stating these mental health issues are their biggest barriers to doing well in school. With depression affecting more and more young adults, it's important for schools to provide adequate resources for their students and for students to take advantage of the support available to them. I hope to use

my creative project: an infographic on depression in college, as a place where students can continue to learn about common factors of depression in college and where to get help. Mental health should be more normalized and should be talked about more freely and comfortably. By combining graphic design and one of the most common mental illnesses I hope to reduce the stigma by helping educate others.



## JOSHUA WILLIAMS

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### *Avatar: Growth and Peace*

What was your favorite cartoon growing up? The age of 7-14 is a period of exponential cognitive, social, and emotional growth for all kids. So, the media we take in will impact that developmental period, media like cartoons.

Cartoons are an excellent form of media that

provides entertainment, laughs, and narratives to be enjoyed by all ages. Although, is that all cartoons have to offer? A simple time filler? No, the popular Nickelodeon cartoon Avatar the Last Airbender is one that impacted many children during its time on air from 2005-2008. In this short film documentary, we catch up with those kids who are now grown up into young adults and discuss the impact and effect Avatar had on their insight on relationships, war, peace, and conflict.



## MICHELLE YA XU

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### *Apps of Apps*

For the people in the digital age, relationships can be built digitally. Indeed, many people find it's easier to start a relationship online than in-person. According to the Pew Research Center, "62% of online daters believe relationships where people first met through a dating site or app are just as successful as those that began in person." When people looking for partners or friends online, shared religious backgrounds are very important. For my project, I designed a mock-up dating/socializing app: App of Apps, targeted at Christian college students. Different from other Christian dating apps, it breaks the seriousness while adds more functions for spiritual connections. Users could choose to sign up through Christian colleges/universities. Overall, I hope this platform could be a safe and fun space for people to find peers with the same passions without leaving their rooms.



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