



Arcadia University's Honors Program

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# HONORS PROJECTIONS

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Featuring projects of all disciplines created  
by our accomplished students  
Spring 2024

Tuesday, April 16th, 2:30pm-8:30pm

Commons Meeting Rooms 2-3

Zoom link on next page



# HONORS PROJECTIONS

## Spring 2024



Honors Students, in lieu of a traditional thesis, are required to do a semester long project outside their majors. Here at Arcadia, the Honors Students are encouraged to explore their passions. We know, with the right support, students can accomplish anything they choose to pursue. So we provide the tools and support to help them realize their potential. And they take their tremendous talents, dedication, passion and vision to accomplish formidable projects. Thank you to all the mentors who helped our students achieve these amazing projects this year and for all years. We invite the Arcadia community to engage in the larger conversation around these projects on November 30th in Brubaker 301!

Congratulations to this semester's Honors Project Students!

**Zoom link for April 16th**

<https://arcadia.zoom.us/j/94220662205>



# HONORS PROJECTIONS

## Spring 2024



April 16th 2:30pm-8:30pm



**HANNAH FRYER (SHE/HER)**

2:45

*The Volleyblog*

Mentor: Emily Poole - Head Women's Volleyball Coach

*Criminal Justice, 2026*

A blog all about the growth of women's volleyball and the impact that it will have. This blog describes many different important aspects.

**ANJALI DYER (SHE/HER)**

3:00

*A Comparative Analysis of Mental Health Resources in the United States and Swedish Foster Care Systems.*

Mentor: Kali DeDominicis, Anthropology and Sociology Professor  
*Psychology, 2027*

My project details the origins and changes made to the United States and Swedish foster care systems from their conception till the late 20th century before transitioning into an analysis of the current state of both foster care systems, concentrating on the mental health resources provided for both foster children and foster families. The essay ends with a comparison of the two foster care systems, detailing which system is more efficient and what each country can change or add to their foster care systems to improve them.



**EMILY DI SILVERIO (SHE/HER)**

3:15

*Food For All: An Inclusive Food Magazine for People with Allergies & Food Sensitivities*

Mentor: Tracey Levine, Coordinator of the Creative Writing Concentration  
*Biology, 2026*

For a lot of us, choosing what to eat can be an intense internal battle. It takes some of us hours to decide where to go out for dinner while others plan their meals days in advance. For people with severe allergies, intolerances, and strict diets, making decisions about food can be a much more complicated feat. This magazine aims to share recipes that almost anyone can enjoy, highlight stories of people with food restrictions, and create a space where everyone feels included and worthy. Whether you need the name of a good vegan restaurant or the recipe for delicious (gluten, dairy, and nut free) banana bread, Food For All has it covered.



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**MELISSA MENDEZ-ASCENCION** (SHE/HER)

3:30

*Healing With Curanderismo*

Mentor: Gabriela Segal, Spanish Professor

Spanish, 2026

Curanderismo (folk healing) is a way in which many people of Hispanic culture practice traditional healing methods. This form of healing is commonly performed with a ritual by a curandero in which they mix elements such as traditional household ingredients, emotional state, and prayer of some sort in order to help sick ones get better. This is an alternative healing practice since many people in Hispanic culture as well as other cultures might not be able to afford a doctor, medications, or have gone to a hospital but weren't cured/healed.

**Taking Orders**



*at the edge of reality*

**DANIEL MATISOFF** (HE/THEY)

3:45

*Narrative Podcast Concept*

Mentor: Micheal Dwyer, Program Director and Media and Communications Professor

Computer Science, 2027

My project is a concept episode for a podcast I plan to produce. The podcast is about a young person who moves to a small town in Ohio, and discovers that the people who live there might not be people at all. In the episode, I have set up groundwork for future plot points and set up character dynamics between the protagonist and supporting cast. The goal for the podcast is to produce an episode that could be used to pitch the show. I also wanted to gain practice in scripting, recording, and editing in order to properly learn how to produce a podcast.



**ISABELLA BERNARDES-VANIN** (SHE/HER)

4:00

*Happy, Hate, Hope*

Mentor: Linda Ruth Paskell

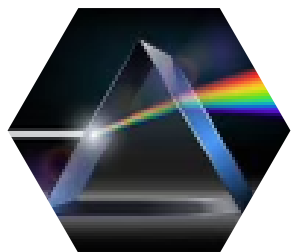
Politics, Government & Law, 2026

This project is a self-exploration of the memories and emotions of my past in Brazil, my present tribulations, and my hopeful future, that are evoked when listening to my current favorite song "Canteiros" by Fagner. The work of art created depicts these 3 phases, and incorporates elements of the song.



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**NICOLE PSHENITSYNA** (SHE/HER)

4:15

*I am different*

Mentor: Ellen Murphey, Adjunct Professor, English  
Chemistry, 2026

A Children's book aimed towards 4-6 year olds that follows a little boy named Grayson through his journey of self-acceptance. Grayson navigates a monochromatic world until he discovers a prism, revealing a spectrum of colors. Through interactions with the colors of the rainbow, Grayson learns the value of individuality. As colors blend to conform, they lose uniqueness, mirroring Grayson's struggle to fit in. Yet, by embracing diversity, Grayson transforms his world, recognizing his own uniqueness and the beauty of others. The story is meant to remind readers of the importance of embracing one's true colors in a world often shaded by conformity.



**ALEX SMITH** (SHE/HER)

4:30

*Navigating the National Parks*

Mentor: Coleen Watson, Professor  
Politics, Government & Law, 2027

I have decided to create a few itineraries for trips through the National Parks for my Honors Project. I really enjoy traveling and I like to be heavily involved in the planning of my trips so this project was really interesting to me. I have done a lot of research on various National Parks, road trips, and traveling in general to create each itinerary. The itineraries can be followed loosely or precisely depending on one's other travel plans. All of the itineraries will be put together into a website.



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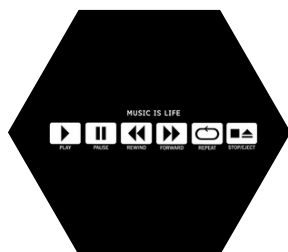
**MARA WEAVER** (SHE/HER)

4:45

*Practicing Sustainability through Project Pan-ing*

Mentor: Rhianon Visinsky, Professor  
Biology/Pre PA, 2025

The makeup industry creates millions of tons of waste every year, worsening the health of the environment. With the pressure to always have the newest product trending on Tik Tok, the problem is only becoming more severe. This project looks at using what we already have, rediscovering items that may have been forgotten, instead of just going out and buying the new best thing. This is not only a way to save money, but form sustainable habits in a fun way.



**ANTHONY GALASSO** (HE/HIM)

5:00

*Soundtrack To Your Life*

Mentor: Logan Fields, Psychology Professor  
Psychology, 2026

My project is a mini-documentary/Independent film on the importance and connection between music and life. More specifically, I want to focus on why people connect with music so deeply and the different aspects of music that make it so important to the lives of millions upon millions of people across the world. I would like to explore this by talking about my own story while incorporating other stories and perspectives in to help widen the understanding of music's impact on not only my life but others as well. This is something I chose to do because music has helped me get through some of the worst times in my life and the loss of my abuela not too long ago really gave me the idea to buckle down and look inward to see why I love music so much.



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**SOPHIA DESIMONE** (SHE/HER)

5:15

*Project Love*

Mentor: Caron Dessoie

Art Education, 2026

This project focuses on the love languages and the meanings behind them. The meaning of love itself is questioned and studied. Individuals are asked to speak on their perspective of love and the languages connecting to one's feelings. This is then going to be turned into an art form. The art will capture various thoughts, feelings and concepts. This will be a mixed media piece. The piece will be then follow by an artist statement.



**MACKENZIE CLARK,** (SHE/HER)

5:30

*Chalk Talk*

Mentor: Danielle Duffy, Assistant Director of Athletics/Head Athletic Trainer  
Sports Management, 2027

4 episodes containing behind the scenes: everything college sports with special guests, my teammates. We talk about fifth years, game days, mindset on and off the field, how injuries affect us, experience from high school or club to college, the ideal teams and teammates, nutrition and strength and conditioning, and what or who inspires us.



**SAM JACONA** (SHE/THEY)

5:45

*Music Production - Song Creation*

Mentor: Sean Kennedy, Professor of Drum Set & Percussion

Graphic Design, 2025

From the intense music buildup in horror films to the songs you hear on the radio, music production is one of the most artistically vast jobs you can do. The final product of a song has hours and hours of hard work behind it from the artist and music producer. I dive into the music producers world that I always was fascinated by and learn to create my very own song. Describing the different components and my goals as a beginner music producer.



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**CAROLINE COMPAROTO (SHE/HER) & CALLIE FALZONE (SHE/HER)**

6:00

*Lets Get Swiftie*

Mentor: Professor Ana Maria Garcia

Public Health & Psychology, 2026

Welcome to Let's Get Swiftie! A podcast featuring your favorite Taylor Swift fans, Callie and Caroline. Follow along as they dive into different gender norms and stereotypes that Taylor Swift breaks through by making power moves. Each episode dives into the world of what being a Swiftie is and why her fans have such a deep connection with her.



**ABBY STEPHENS (SHE/HER) & MOLLY NEMETH (SHE/HER)**

6:30

*Sustainable Fashion: Protecting the Environment and Ethics One Outfit at a Time*

Mentor: Rhianon Visinsky - Adjunct Professor

Biology Pre-Med & Biology Pre-PA, 2026

Growing up at the Jersey shore, an area in which protecting and caring for the environment is always so important, we have learned the importance of sustainability. Pairing the importance of sustainability with our passion for fashion, we have created a magazine that discusses all things sustainable fashion, why it is important, and how to support it. This magazine touches on topics such as upcycling, thrifting, greenwashing, fast fashion, and the Global Organic Textile Standard (or GOTS). We have also put the process of upcycling into practice by transforming some clothing items into new pieces with different styles and functions.





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**AVA BETSON** (SHE/HER)

7:00

*Monstrously Feminine: an Investigation of Female Monsters and their Implications on Gender Stereotypes*

Mentor: Tracey Levine, Coordinator of the Creative Writing Concentration  
Psychology, 2026

Throughout history, the genre of horror has been used as an outlet to express societal fears. Women have often been the subject of fear in patriarchal societies, and myths and stories of female monsters reflect this. In my Honors Project, I've decided to research female monsters from a variety of different cultures, including ones from ancient mythology to modern day films. Through my research of these feared creatures, I've documented how female gender roles are morphed and mutated into monstrous beings. What happens when a woman steps out of line? You'll have to listen to my presentation to find out how they transform.



**HANNA RHOADES**

7:15

*Sushi Blog*

Mentor: Sam Maiorino, AT  
Biology Pre-PT, 2026

This project will explore the culture of a food that's been my favorite since I was a young girl, while also allowing me to try new restaurants and talk about them. It's all about sushi! This project allowed me to try a few new sushi restaurants, and also learn so much more about it. It has also allowed me to learn the ins and outs of blog-making, which was definitely a challenge.



**BECCA REMELGADO** (SHE/HER)

7:30

*Hearts Full of Wellness*

Mentor: Rob Napoli, Scenic Supervisor of Arcadia Theater  
Acting, 2026

Hearts Full of Wellness is a project that displays dozens of crocheted hearts all over campus with QR codes attached to each one. Scan the code, and be taken to the College Wellness Corner, a resource for college students who need some self care tips and activities to get through the stressors of college!

*Thank you joining us!*

