

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS (SPRING 2012)

Paul A. Lizotte, Ph.D.*

Professor, Department of English and Communications, Rivier University

Kelly Renaud Tuesday, April 24, 2012 4:00pm STH207

Director: Dr. Martin Menke

Title: **“Joseph Stalin: Red Tsar: Breaks and Continuities in Russian History”**

Socialism as applied to Russia by Lenin, and later by Stalin, breaks almost entirely from the orthodox political theory as formulated by Marx himself. Both Lenin and Stalin were forced to implement more pragmatic measures in an attempt to maintain their hold on political power and control of the Soviet Union. Stalin breaks from Marxist thought and Lenin’s application of Marxist theory thoroughly. His desire for total control of the government, development of a cult of personality, expansion of Soviet bureaucracy, and his iron-fisted control of the Soviet economy are all patterns of governance that match the characteristics of Russian tsarism.

Zachary Himmelberger Wednesday, May 2, 2012 12:00pm STH207

Director: Dr. Jerome Rekart

Title: **“The Testing Effect in the Classroom”**

This study examines a well-known phenomenon in cognitive psychology termed the "testing effect." Essentially, this phenomenon states that taking a test improves future recall more efficiently than additional studying. This project is a novel experiment designed to examine this effect in children within the context of a classroom setting, as well as undergraduate students.

Christina Shea Wednesday, May 2, 2012 1:30pm STH207

Director: Prof. James Dowding

Title: **“Reality Television: A Detriment to Society?”**

This thesis examines the phenomenon of reality television, with a focus on the United States. It concentrates on the negative effects that reality television has had on viewers, show participants or cast members, its history, and controversies surrounding the genre. A study of 120 individuals, mainly high school and college-age students, was given in order to report feedback from reality television’s main demographic.

Francelly Ortiz Friday, May 4, 2012 12:00pm STH207

Director: Prof. Jeremiah Dolan

Title: **“The Mystery of China”**

Viewing China from a historical perspective will allow Americans to leave behind the fear that China will surpass us and become a superpower. This thesis will examine some of the real problems China is facing and will emphasize Confucius' continuing impact on Chinese culture.

* **PAUL A. LIZOTTE**, Ph.D., is Professor of the Department of English and Communications at Rivier University. He received a Ph.D. (English) from Pennsylvania State University, M.A. (English) from the University of Virginia, and A.B. (English, Minor in Philosophy) from Boston College. Dr. Lizotte specializes in British Romantic and Victorian Poetry, 19th Century British Novel, Modern American Poetry, Literature of the Environment, and Literary Theory and Criticism. He is a Member of the Rivier Faculty since 1980 serving as Chair of the English and Communications Department for nine years (1983-1992). Currently, Dr. Lizotte is the Director of the College’s Honors Program, and Director of the Freshman Writing Seminar program.