**2/1 & 2/16**
**McKenna B01**

**Drunk on Film: The Psychology of Storytelling with Alcohol and its Effects on Alcohol Consumption**

Presented by Ted Mandell & Anré Venter

Alcohol Use Disorder is a chronic relapsing brain disease. But when presented on screen, it's entertainment. Why do we laugh, why do we cry, why do we emulate fictional characters whose drinking habits result in a life of debilitating addiction? From James Bond to Jonah Hill, the psychology and seduction of alcohol on film, in advertising, and online will be analyzed. We'll also look at non-fiction films that tackle issues of addiction, as a way of comparing character development in Hollywood films to the results of this same behavior in everyday life. Furthermore, what is the relationship between alcohol use/abuse as presented on screen and the manner in which alcohol is used and abused on, for example, college campuses? Has binge drinking been normalized in film narratives? Does this affect adolescent expectations of alcohol consumption? From the psychological perspective we will discuss the topic and process of social influence and how the presence of others influences our behavior. Questions of interest will include the following: What are the mechanisms by which group influence unfolds? How and why might we be persuaded? Does the manner in which alcohol use is portrayed in movies and the media reflect the processes and principles of social influence? In addition, issues of addiction will be discussed - from understanding the basis of addiction to examining the efficacy of addiction treatment.

About Ted Mandell & Anré Venter

Ted Mandell (M.A. Univ. of Iowa, B.A. Univ of Notre Dame) is an Associate Teaching Professor in the Notre Dame Department of Film, Television, and Theatre where he has taught film for the past 33 years. Specializing in documentary film production, Ted is co-director of the documentary "88 and 1" (ESPN2), the award winning documentary "Okuyamba", and producer of the online documentary series First Time Fans. Ted is also in charge of the annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival, founder of the Force For Good Film Festival for High School Students, and director of Notre Dame's pre-college Summer Scholars Film Track program for high school students. He has penned numerous national op-ed columns on media and popular culture, published in The Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Sun Times, and other newspapers.

Dr. Anré Venter received his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Notre Dame and is currently the director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Psychology at Notre Dame. He teaches the introductory psychology course for first year students, statistics, a mid-level Social Psychology course and upper-level seminars focusing on the Philosophy of the Self. His primary research interest examines issues of self ranging from the effects of self-complexity as a buffer against stress as well as the relationship between culture and self. Prior to entering Notre Dame, Dr. Venter received an M.A. in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University and a B.A. in psychology and social anthropology from the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

**2/2 & 2/24**
**McKenna B01**

**God and the Good Life: Exploring Philosophy as a Way of Life**

Presented by Paul Blaschko

For thousands of years, philosophers have been asking and answering some of the deepest and most pressing practical questions: What makes a life good? Which are the essential or ultimate goals we should set ourselves in attempting to live well? Can we know whether God exists, or what it would take for our lives to be meaningful? In this seminar -- based on Notre Dame's popular God and the Good Life course -- Paul Blaschko will lead participants through a series of reflective exercises aimed at exploring these questions in the context of our own lives, and at connecting us up with a deep philosophical tradition. We'll consider insights about how to live well from thinkers as diverse as Socrates, Marcus Aurelius, St. Thomas Aquinas, Elizabeth Anscombe, and James Baldwin. Participants will leave with a sketch of their own "Philosophy Apology," a document that captures their current vision of the Good Life and lays out some experiments they can use to test out that view moving forward.

About Paul Blaschko

Paul Blaschko is an assistant teaching professor in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He heads up curriculum design and digital pedagogy for the God and the Good Life Program, and has recently been working to develop similar curricula at universities across the nation as part of an initiative funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Blaschko completed an MA in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, a PhD at the University of Notre Dame in 2018, and held the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship prior to being appointed to his current position.

**2/17 & 2/22**

**McKenna 202 or Harper**

**Cancer Research and Treatment**

Presented by Jenifer Prosperi & Thomas O'Sullivan

Cancer, a complex group of diseases, remains one of the most formidable challenges in medicine as currently over 1/3 of all women and men will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetimes. However, significant progress has been made in the past 50 years in understanding, preventing, screening, and treating cancer which has led to a substantial reduction in cancer deaths in the United States. The goal of this course is to provide participants with the knowledge to understand the biological origin and causes of cancer, identify established (i.e. clinical) and emerging (i.e. research) techniques to screen for and treat cancer, and better understand the clinical trial process that establishes the safety and efficacy of new cancer treatments. Participants will hear from cancer physicians, cancer researchers, and cancer survivors through a combination of interactive lectures, panel discussions, and laboratory tours.

About Jenifer Prosperi & Thomas O'Sullivan

Dr. Jeni Prosperi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at IUSM-South Bend and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. She is a member of the Harper Cancer Research Institute and the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center. She received her BA in Microbiology from Miami University (Ohio), and her Ph.D. in Integrated Biomedical Sciences from The Ohio State University. Her postdoctoral training was in Surgical Research at the University of Chicago. Work in the Prosperi lab is focused on understanding a tumor's response to chemotherapy, and designing more effective treatments for patients with triple negative breast cancer. The Prosperi lab has been generously supported by the Navari Family Foundation, Indiana CTSI, Walther Cancer Foundation, and the American Cancer Society. Dr. Prosperi is a member of the American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network, where she actively discusses the importance funding for cancer research and screening with members of congress. Dr. Thomas O'Sullivan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame since 2016. Dr. O'Sullivan is a member of the Harper Cancer Research Institute and engaged in translational biomedical research based upon the development of noninvasive optical imaging and sensing for use in diagnosing and treating breast cancer. Prior to Notre Dame, he was Director of the Diffuse Optical Spectroscopy and Imaging Laboratory at the Beckman Laser Institute of the University of California, Irvine and a U.S. Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Postdoctoral Fellow. He received the B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University in 2005 and the M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 2007 and 2011, respectively.

**3/17 & 3/31**
**McKenna 202**

**Evidence-Based Instructional Practices to Support Elementary Students in Reading and Mathematics**

Presented by Nicole McNeil
The goal of this seminar is to offer educators specific, evidence-based recommendations for teaching foundational reading and mathematics skills to elementary students. Professor McNeil will synthesize some of the best available research on how to support children's foundational reading and mathematics skills using the *What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Practice Guides for Educators*$^{TM}$ as a base. The group will discuss the "how and why" of research in the education sciences, the quality of the evidence for each recommendation, how recommended practices compare to current practices, and how to implement the recommended practices in the classroom. Group members will be asked to apply the recommendations using specific examples and will share ideas with others educators in the group.

About Nicole McNeil
McNeil is Professor of Psychology and ACE College Professor at Notre Dame. She currently directs the Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS) undergraduate program; the Cognition Learning and Development (CLAD) Lab; and TutorND. She also serves as a member of the South Bend Community School Corporation's (SBCSC) Restorative Justice in Education Advisory Council. Her professional preparation includes a B.S. from Carnegie Mellon University, a Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a postdoc at Yale. She studies cognitive development, with a specific focus on mathematical cognition, symbolic development, concept construction, and problem solving. She asks questions like "How does existing knowledge affect learning of new information?" and "How do children construct new problem-solving strategies"? and "What do children understand about math before they start learning it in school, and how does the formal teaching of math affect this intuitive knowledge?" A key contribution of her work has been to show that relatively minor differences in children's input can play a central role in shaping understanding of foundational concepts. She received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), a National Science Foundation CAREER award, and the Boyd McCandless Award from APA. She's a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and an Associate Editor for the journal *Cognitive Science*. McNeil's research is supported by grants from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

**10/4 & 11/15**
**McKenna 202**

**Robotics for Restoring and Augmenting Human Capabilities**

Presented by Jim Schmiedeler & Patrick Wensing

Technological advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence have been linked to potentially negative changes in the future workforce, but those same advancements are having a dramatic positive impact on rehabilitation following injury right now. This seminar will explore the state of the art in this domain and the technological limitations that still must be overcome to fully restore lost abilities and/or augment healthy human performance. Topics will include: powered exoskeletons that facilitate walking after spinal cord injury and can enhance healthy human endurance and strength; prostheses that approximate but do yet not replicate lost limb function; and a variety of clinical hardware that helps to optimize the use of limited therapy time to achieve better rehabilitation outcomes. Hands-on activities inside research labs on campus will highlight motion capture technology for quantifying human performance.

About Jim Schmiedeler & Patrick Wensing

Jim Schmiedeler and Pat Wensing are both faculty in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering whose collaboration in experimental legged robotics research goes back a dozen years. Dr. Schmiedeler is a mechanical engineer by training who has built walking biped robots and partnered with physical therapists in his research of technology-assisted rehabilitation following stroke and spinal cord injury. Dr. Wensing is an electrical engineer by training who has developed control algorithms for running quadruped robots and assistive robotic devices. The two are currently working together on projects involving exoskeletons and lower-limb prostheses.

**10/5 & 10/19**
**McKenna 202**

**Medieval Lyric Poetry: Material Culture and Reading Practices**

Presented by Sr. Annie Killian

How did people in the Middle Ages encounter lyric poetry? The manuscripts and material objects that preserve medieval lyrics provide tantalizing clues as to how these poems reached audiences: they were heard in songs and sermons, recited aloud in prayer, inscribed on rings and painted on walls. This seminar will cover new research into medieval processes of poetic production as well as reading practices, as scholars seek to understand the literary and cultural work that medieval lyrics accomplished. Additionally, we will explore current debates about the lyric genre that impact how we teach students to read poetry from the past.

About Sr. Annie Killian

Sr. Annie Killian, Ph.D., is the Public Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow at the Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, and a Dominican Sister of Peace. She holds a B.A. in English Literature from Yale University, an M.Phil in English Studies (Medieval) from the University of Oxford, and a Ph.D. in English from Yale. Her research on poetry, pastoral care, and the manuscript culture of late-medieval England has appeared in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* and *The Yearbook of Langland Studies*. She has taught college writing and literature at Ohio Dominican University, Connecticut College, Yale University, and the Wesleyan Center for Prison Education.

**10/6 & 10/27**
**McKenna 202**

**What is inside? How do chemists know what they have?**

Presented by Merlin Bruening

This workshop explores the field of analytical chemistry and biochemistry. We will ask and answer questions such as how do I determine the level of metal contaminants in water? How big is a molecule and how do I know? If I make a drug, how do I ascertain its purity. In particular, we look at recent antibody drugs, which are produced in broths and particularly hard to characterize. The workshop aims to include hands-on experiments and problem-solving exercises.

Session 1: Determining metal-ion concentrations and the height of a single layer of molecules.
Session 2: Examining the purity and composition of drugs, particularly antibodies.

About Merlin Bruening

Merlin Bruening is the Donald and Susan Rice Professor of Engineering in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1989 and received his PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science (1995), where under the direction of Abraham Shanzer and David Cahen he studied modification of semiconductor surfaces. His postdoctoral research with Richard Crooks (Texas A&M University) examined the growth of hyperbranched polymer films. From 1997-2016, Merlin was a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at Michigan State University, where he focused on creating ultrathin films for applications in chemical separations and analysis. In 2016, Merlin joined the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Notre Dame. His specific research areas include development of ultrathin films as ion-separation membranes, room-temperature growth of polymer films, and modification of porous membranes for protein purification or digestion prior to mass spectrometry analysis.

**10/11 & 10/25**
**Library**

***Why does the book endure?* The History of European Printed Books and their Contemporary Scholarship**

Presented by Tracy Bergstrom

This seminar explores the history of the printed book in Europe utilizing the vast collections held by the Hesburgh Libraries' Department of Rare Books & Special Collections. The course will examine the history of printing through multiple lenses including the history of technology, art history, intellectual history, and the reception of texts and their dissemination. The first day's class will take place within Rare Books & Special Collections to provide a hands-on introduction to these issues, with participants studying examples of early printed and illustrated books to investigate the topics of unstable texts, canon formation of individual authors, and propaganda. Subsequent classroom discussion will survey the topic of digital humanities as it pertains to early printing and the future of the scholarship in this field. Participants will learn from advance readings as well as multimedia resources.

About Tracy Bergstrom

Tracy Bergstrom is the director of the Specialized Collection Services Program within the Hesburgh Libraries of Notre Dame. As such, she oversees Rare Books & Special Collections, University Archives, Preservation, and Digital Production. She is also the curator of the Zahm Dante and early Italian imprints collection at Notre Dame and is especially interested in the print history of Dante's *Divine Comedy*.