

Professor Boulanger's Seminar

Saying goodbye to my seminar students is always bittersweet. After nurturing and getting to know them over the course of four years, I will no longer see their faces in my class or in the halls of Chukyo. However, I am excited for their new adventures-be it work, study or travel-and I know that they have developed valuable academic and interpersonal skills to help them to succeed in these endeavors. This year is especially poignant because it is my last year teaching the 4th year seminar in BACS. I am happy that I could retire from teaching in BACS with such a nice, respectful group of students.

This year, students explored some interesting and challenging topics in Canadian and American social history. All students worked hard and produced well researched essays which they can be proud of. Hailyn Irie looks at the recent decision in the US to overturn Roe vs Wade, and its implications for American women. She explores how the reversal of Roe vs Wade will impact the most vulnerable women in society - the young, the impoverished, and minority women - and the long-term impact that lack of abortion access will have on their lives. She argues that the failure to protect the reproductive rights of women is a human rights issue. Minori Amano explores the plight of the polar bear in Canada, the various impacts that global warming has on the polar bear, and the actions that have been taken by the Canadian government and NPOs to study the polar problem.

She argues that the main reason for the decline of the polar is climate change, and that the polar bear will disappear if governments, and society in general, do not take action to stop it. Kaito Komodo has a love of jazz music, and in his essay, he explores the origins of jazz music, diversity in jazz, and how it can serve as a model for other groups in society to work together in harmony. Naoko Iwamoto's essay examines how the Canadian eugenics movement of the 1930s influenced the political and medical community's perceptions of indigenous women resulting in the continued policing of indigenous women's bodies. In her essay Miyu Kanayama examines how gender impacts women's career choices and success in the workplace. She argues that from a young age, girls are socialized to believe that some careers are only for men and that the stereotype of women as caregiver results in them being overrepresented in lower paying caring professions. Minami Goto looks at how Maud Lewis, a simple Nova Scotia folk artist who sold her paintings for pennies, grew into a Nova Scotia icon and how, after her death, a tourist industry was created around her which portrayed the province as a rural destination where one could enjoy the "simple life." Mao Miyata's essay focuses on Indigenous Tourism in Canada, and she argues that although there are concerns among Canada's indigenous community about natural resources and important sacred sites, they see the potential in tourism both as a source of income and employment, but also as a means of enlightening non-indigenous Canadians about indigenous culture. She notes that there are challenges that Indigenous people face

in expanding tourism due to the legacies of colonial policies, but Indigenous tourism is one of the fastest growing tourism industries in Canada and abroad.

Mayu Harada is this year's winner of the best thesis award for her well-written and well-researched essay on women in the Canadian film industry. Mayu provides solid statistical evidence that women are underrepresented in all areas of the film industry, especially women of color and indigenous women, and struggle to find jobs in the industry, get their films made, or be represented in Canadian film. She then looks at various initiatives by women in the film industry, starting with the groundbreaking all women initiative, Studio D. She focuses on several Canadian female film makers of color, and female film groups that work to make sure that women's films get made and promoted. Mayu's work is exceptional, and this is no doubt due to her keen interest in her work and her impressive work ethic.