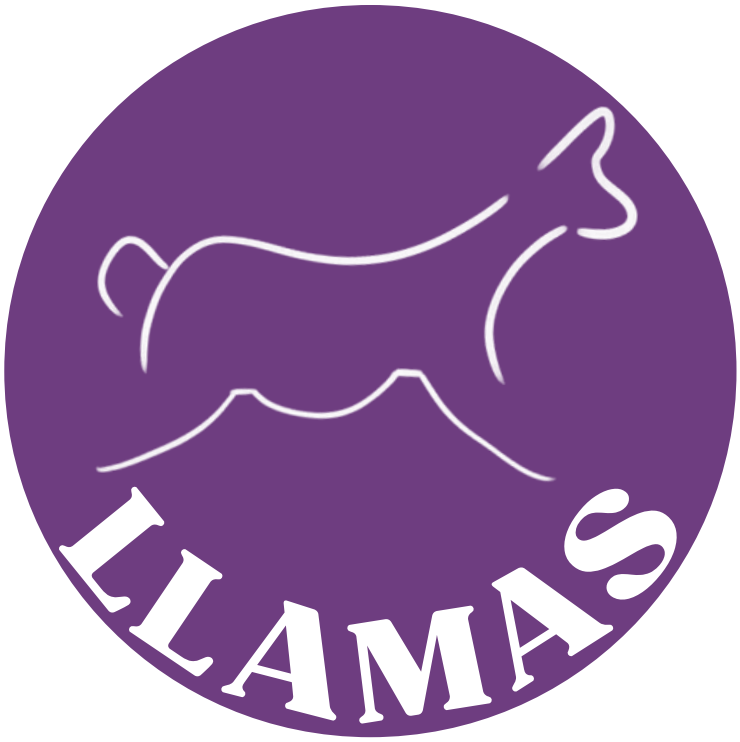


Languages, Literature, and Mass Communication Symposium

Location: Colorado Mesa University
University Center - Rooms 221, 222
1455 N. 12th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501

Organizing Committee

- Lanai Bartlett
- Ashley Bollinger
- Aidan Leschen
- Dr. Kathryn J. McClain
- Dra. Laura Muñoz

Special Thanks

- Dra. Cecilia Battauz
- Shannon Davidson
- Dr. Laurena Davis
- Dr. Tiffany Kinney
- Dr. Barry Laga
- Ashleigh Messall
- Prof. Allison Morris

Conference Etiquette

Do

- Thank conference organizers at the beginning of your presentation
- Attend your peers' presentations
- Take notes during other people's presentations
- Ask questions during Q&A
- Attend keynote speakers' sessions-they traveled a long way to be here!
- Remember you are in a professional environment

Do Not

- Leave mid-session unless for an emergency
- Ask questions to the whole group during Q&A (these questions tend to waste time)
- Put people on the spot with your questions (do not ask "have you read/seen this")
- Distract from presentations with additional technology

Access to Website and Online Program

Day 1

Friday October 30, 2026

10:00 Registration

11:00-11:45 **Session 1**

UC 221 - Creando cómics en español

"Construir el mundo de Aguja: La ambientación en el estilo Steampunk tras investigación histórica, lingüística y del comic"
Presented By: Grant Gulden

"El Divorcio y Moisés el ratón: Creando novelas gráficas con estilos y temas contrastantes"
Presented By: Ashley Bollinger

UC 222 - Maintaining the Standards of Journalism Today

"When You Become the Story: A Journalist's Reflections on Proposed Budget Cuts to Student Print Media at Colorado Mesa University"
Presented By: Marigold Nugent

"Nobody wants to talk about this: User stigma and shame make it hard to report on the social impacts of AI. This is how we did it."
Presented By: Julia Wildman, Kylie Hoffman, Teagan Meens

11:45 **Lunch Break**

12:30 **Conference Welcome—Ballroom South**

12:40-1:40 **Keynote 1—Ballroom South**

Dr. Shawn Miller—Beasts in the Machine: Wild Life and Wild Agency at the Dawn of the Anthropocene

1:45 **Remarks by President John Marshall**

2:00-3:00 **Session 2**

UC 221 - Civil Disobedience: Analysis and Practice

"Double Consciousness based on James Baldwin's 'Equal in Paris'"
Presented By: Patrick Fitzgerald

"Bee or Man Thinking?"
Presented By: Alexa Venegas

UC 222 - In the Act of Writing: The Creative Process

"Kamby and Cobain-Restringing the Guitar"
Presented By: Nyx Kamby

"Balancing, Allusion, Reference, and Storytelling in Short Fiction"
Presented By: Patrick Tidwell

"Written Apperception: A Poetic Manifesto"
Presented By: Corran Gandy

3:15-4:15 **Session 3**

UC 221 - Shaping Identity in Comics and Manga

"Who's Behind the Mask?: Dick Grayson/Nightwing, Posttraumatic Growth, and the Narrative Storyworld"
Presented By: Grace Brophy

"The Outlaw & the Space Angel: Performance of Gender and Genre Aesthetics of Space Westerns in the Manga Trigun"
Presented By: Eldyn Molina

"'Immigrant from Krypton, Citizen of Metropolis: Adaptation and the Reshaping of Identity in Superman Smashes the Klan"
Presented By: Aidan Leschen

UC 222 - Examining Injustice: Past and Present

"Complex Medicine: Field Nurses, Missionization, and Medical Racism on the Navajo Nation in the Twentieth Century"
Presented By: Faolon Spahl

"The Creation of Invisible Harm: The Discourse of Non-Consensual Pelvic Examinations"
Presented By: Brooklyn Colvin

4:30-5:30 **Workshop 1—Ballroom South**

How To: Humanities Publications Workshop

6:00-7:30 **Awards and Reception**

Escalante Hall 3rd Floor Terrace
Pizza Party and Costume Contest

Day 2

Saturday October 31, 2026

8:00 Registration

8:45-9:45 **Session 4**

UC 221 - Developing Identity: Documentaries and Branding

“Documentary: CMU Baseball”
Presented By: Abygail Bury

"Beyond the Logo: Branding as Identity, Storytelling, and Communication"
Presented By: William Diaz, Lanai Bartlett

10:00-11:00 **Session 5**

UC 221 - Classic Lit Reimagined

"Canines and the Count: Exploiting Victorian Fears of the Canine in Dracula"
Presented By: Sarah Miller

“Becoming the Good Man: Scout, Kaffee (played by Tom Cruise), Father Figures, and Identity”
Presented By: Valerie Glenn

“Nuance Within Tragedy”
Presented By: Hazel Piccoli

10:00-11:00 **Session 5 Continued**

UC 222 - Philosophies at Work

“The Reality of Scientific Theories”
Presented By: Alec Johnson

“Childishness: The Key to Freedom from Despair, as Taught by Novalis"
Presented By: J.J. Greene

“Critical Grammar and Rhetoric in Second Language Pedagogy”
Presented By: Morgan Byard

11:15-12:15 **Session 6**

UC 221 - Society on Screen

"Murder Mysteries and Killer Aliens from Outer Tax-Brackets: The Changing Landscape of Economic and Ecologic Rhetoric in Film"
Presented By: Owen Bickham

“American Monsters: An Analysis of Classic Slasher Films”
Presented By: Gabriel O'Crowley

“Faces of the Nat Turner Rebellion: Relationships, Identity, and Gender In Nate Parker’s The Birth of a Nation”
Presented By: Lexon Urbain

UC 222 - Race, Gender, and Popular Figures

“Wonder Woman: Feminist Possibilities”
Presented By: Kyndall Toft

“The Anti-mimetic Prowess of Spawn: Race and Religion”
Presented By: Paige K. Raymond

12:15-1:00 **Lunch Break and Club Fair**

1:00-2:00 **Keynote 2— Ballroom South**

Dr. Rachel Hartnett—(Post)Colonial Monsters: Zombies and Vampires and Dragons, Oh My!

2:15-3:15 **Session 7**

UC 221 - History Reframed

"Ancient Politics: Urban planning in Tenochtitlan and Constantinople"
Presented By: Talan Gutierrez

"The Last Sentry for the Fallen Faith of Communism"
Presented By: Oliver Tallman

UC 222 - Games, Theory, and Fan Culture

"Magic the Gathering: The Controversy within the Cards"
Presented By: Emmett Khalsa

3:30-4:30 **Workshop 2- Ballroom South**

How To: Life After Undergrad

4:45-5:15 **Closing Reception- Ballroom South**

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