



Senior Honors Thesis Presentations Fall 2022

Wednesday, November 9th
3:30pm – 5:00 pm

Briar Lehman

An Analysis of Factors Contributing to High School Humanities Courses

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Rachel Constance, Associate Professor of History

Reader: Dr. Jennifer Green, Assistant Professor of Education

The debate regarding the place of the humanities in universities continues to spark disagreement. However, some research indicates that universities which have cut back on humanities programs are doing so in response to a lower interest in humanities among students; this indicates that the lack of interest and decline in the humanities begins in the high schools. This project analyzes the number of humanities courses, defined as literature, language, music (instrumental and vocal), dance, theater visual arts, and history/social studies, in twelve high schools in northeastern Ohio, taking into account a variety of demographic information, including the surrounding community's racial composition, median income, and political affiliations, as well as a school's advanced academic options (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and honors), typology, student enrollment, and religious affiliation, where applicable, to determine if any of these factors contributes to the amount of humanities offered by a school.

Austin Fantin

Tap to pay: Examining the relationship between Peer-to-Peer mobile payment apps and college student spending habits

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Kim, Associate Professor of Business

Reader: Dr. Julie Szendrey, Professor of Business

When purchasing a good or service, there are now more options than ever when deciding how to pay. Recently, Peer-to-Peer (P2P) payment apps have become popular. Extant literature shows that credit cards and mobile payments have an effect on how people interact with purchases, those interactions being evaluated by pain of payment, convenience, and willingness to pay (WTP). However, P2P apps have not yet been evaluated on those same criteria. This study seeks to fill in the gap with a focus on the college-aged population. My study primarily compared P2P apps with debit cards and used cash as a constant. Participants found debit cards more convenient than P2P apps. Participants were willing to pay more with P2P apps than debit cards for lower priced items, but the inverse was found for higher priced items. I recommend that future research expands beyond the scope of this study of college-aged students.

Haili Kendall

Increasing Religious Literacy in Law Enforcement: A tool in building trust between Law Enforcement and Communities of Color

Thesis Advisor: Prof. Cary Dabney, Instructor of Theology

Reader: Fr. Louis Bertrand Lemoine, Assistant Professor of Theology

Over the past few years, the nationwide protests over the long-standing plague of racism in our country, most recently manifested in the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor, have placed our nation before a “fork in the road.” We stand on the precipice of monumental change or devastating regression in the area of race relations within our nation. This has been most vivid in the relationship between law enforcement and the African American community. What comes next between these two parties will depend on how law enforcement responds to the cries of the people in these affected communities.

Historically, particularly in African American communities, there has been an intimate connection between social movements and sensitives to injustice and faith. At the same time, there appears to be a decreasing appreciation of faith among law enforcement officers. If the disparity between the attitude towards faith by law enforcement and the significance of faith in communities of color continues to increase, it will undoubtedly lead to more tension between these two communities. I hypothesize that reconciliation between law enforcement and African American communities can be achieved by the inclusion of religious literacy in the training and formation of law enforcement officers.

As a disclaimer, it is important to understand that the building of trust and the reparation of relationships is an effort that requires the cooperation of both sides. This means that there has to be a willingness and an understanding from both law enforcement and communities of color for any real difference to be made. It is also important to recognize that this is not a “black versus white” issue, this is an issue that affects society as a whole. This understanding will be made present throughout this research, but the primary focus will be on the inclusion of religious literacy in the formation of law enforcement officers.