

Teacher Connection
Version 2.0
December 14, 2016

Unless otherwise noted, most presentations are intended for high-school students. Teachers can contact individual professors to see if presentations could be tailored for other grade levels.

Brett Barker, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of History
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- Civil War topics: Wisconsin in the Civil War, Women in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, The Ordinary Union Soldier. Other topics upon request.
- American Indian History: talks and discussions can focus on a time period, a specific tribe, or Wisconsin's native peoples
- Slavery: an overview, the Middle Passage, the antislavery movement in the United States and Wisconsin
- The Story of How Wisconsin Abolished the Death Penalty in the 1850s
- The Home Front during American wars: American Revolution, Civil War, World War I, or World War II
- The History of Environmental Thought in the United States

Any of these topics can be aimed at any grade level and I have experience working with 4th and 5th graders as well as high school students.

Tim Buchholz, D.M.A.
Assistant Professor of Music
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715-261-6246

- Choral Ensemble Masterclasses (including possible exchange with a UWMC vocal ensemble)
- Choral Solo & Ensemble Coaching and Preparation
- Getting a College Music Scholarship: Effectively Preparing for Your College Music Auditions
- Beginning Vocal Improvisation: Anyone Can Scat Sing!
- The Evolution of Jazz Singing in America

Jeff Erickson, D.M.A.
Senior Lecturer, Music
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715-261-6268

- Saxophone Masterclasses
- Jazz Ensemble Masterclasses
- Jazz Improvisation Masterclasses
- Jazz History and Appreciation
- Solo and Ensemble Coaching and Preparation

Eric Giordano, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the
Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service

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- International and comparative political topics ranging from global world order to comparative health policies across nations
- National security topics including terrorism, cyber-security, U.S. military strategy, threats from major nations such as China and Russia, global pandemics
- The roles of the Executive branch and Congress
- Constitutional questions around the Bill of Rights including first, second, fourth and other key amendments
- Campaigns, elections, redistricting, money in politics, and related topics
- Current research in citizen engagement and civic participation
- Provide training for students of all grades in dialogue and deliberation processes (have offered classroom training for teachers and students in several area schools)

Ann Herda-Rapp, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology

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- The sociology of gender: an overview of the topic or specific subtopics (work, education, family, etc.)
- The social construction of environmental issues: which environmental issues do we worry about and why?
- Technology, social media and community: do cell phones, the internet and social media foster a sense of community or do they erode it?
- What can I do with a Sociology (or Human Services or Social Work) major? And how do I choose which university to attend for one of these majors?
- Discussion of contemporary or classic films or books, from a sociological perspective

Katie Kalish, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English
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715-261-6258

- Get that Scholarship: How to Write Effective Scholarship and Application Essays
- Modern British Literature: Can offer discussions on authors like Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, Yeats, and Mansfield, as well as literary modernism.
- Early American Literature: Can offer discussions on authors like Whitman, Dickinson, Melville, and Stowe, as well as women writers in early American literature.
- Graphic Novels: Can provide context for how we read graphic novels as works of literature and lead discussions on authors like Satrapi, Thompson, Gaiman, and Spiegelman.

Jeff Leigh, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of History
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715-261-6276

- Professional Development Programs for Teachers in World History. I am the past Director of the Marathon County History Teaching Alliance, which was an award-winning k-12 professional development partnership with local school teachers and districts.
- General World History for all time periods and for all grades
- More specialized presentations in Middle Eastern, European, Russian/Soviet, and Chinese History
- Islam and religious history more generally
- The History of Nationalism, Communism, and Revolutions

Barry Liss, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Communication Arts
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(715)261-6394

- Media and technological change.
- Stoic philosophy and its relevance to modern day society.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson's impact through the decades.
- Public speaking for all occasions.
- Creative social practices and the fine arts or 'what does this piano have to do with that poem?'

Paul Martin Ph. D.
Professor of Mathematics
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715-261-6272

- The workings of a Pi Machine
(audience: students in Physics and Higher Level Math)
- The number Pi. Methods of approximating it from ancient to modern.
- Archimedes and the area of a circle and the volume of a sphere.
- A tour through the mathematics in the future of STEM majors.

Louis L. Pech, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
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715-261-6255

- Biochemistry, Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics: I can offer lectures on any of these basic sciences, including potential career paths and opportunities.
- Human Anatomy & Physiology: I can offer lectures on any organ system or systems. These could include discussion of derived characteristics of the human body and their relationship to chronic diseases.
- Nutrition, Exercise Physiology & Metabolism: I can offer discussions on the effects of lifestyle factors on human health and chronic disease risk and prevention from the level of genes to physiology to populations.
- Parasitology and Biology of Disease Vectors: I can offer lectures on parasitic diseases and their vectors, including diseases transmitted by ticks and mosquitoes.
- Environmental Science: I can offer lectures on topics such as climate change, world hunger and biodiversity

Kristine Prah, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences
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- Microbiology: microscopy, epidemiology, the microbiome of humans, probiotics and prebiotics
- Antibiotic Resistance: how microorganisms become resistant, how antibiotic resistance spreads, and how to slow the spread of antibiotic resistance
- Genetics: stem cells, epigenetics, DNA fingerprinting, and gene cloning

Sarah J. Rudolph, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts
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- **Preparing to Audition:** Whether auditioning for a competitive university acting program or for a role at school, learn techniques for presenting yourself and showcasing your vocal, physical, emotional abilities to bring meaning to material. A variation on this workshop offers ways to use theatre activities to build confidence in any kind of public performance, particularly public speaking.
- **Trends in Contemporary Theatre:** Explore the range of theatre active today: from the Broadway Blockbuster to experimental theatre, from the highly structured to the improvisational, exploring everything from the most profound to the broadest physical comedy. Lecture/discussion can be adapted to the specific needs of your class, group; and can include reading and improvisation.
- **Representation of Mental Illness on Stage:** Some say that those with mental illness are the last "safe" population to mock, ridicule. Much thought has been given to how race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation is featured in television, film, and stage. Fascinating dynamics exist in the shifting perceptions of mental illness as it becomes better understood and less taboo.
- **Devising Short Plays:** Explore the various ways to turn your ideas into performance. Students will have the opportunity to work on creating new material or refining material that is in process.

These presentations/workshops can be adapted for students in late elementary, middle, and high schools.

Jill Stukenberg, MFA
Assistant Professor English
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- Creative Writing workshops for all age and skill levels. Workshops might focus on: image, sensory details, compelling characters, point of view; or genre types: poetry, short story, creative nonfiction, short plays. Also: How to read and understand poetry, Ways to approach revision, Mining life for material.
- Brainstorming sessions. I can facilitate sessions to help your group come up with new approaches, paper topic ideas, or solutions to problems. Sessions can also promote group cohesion or out-of-the-box thinking, or simply help participants think in general about their own creativity and ability to think divergently.
- Evaluating websites: How to judge the credibility of what you find online.
- Writing introductions and conclusions to academic essays.
- Punctuation primer: when and how to use commas, dashes, semi-colons, and colons and for what effects in writing.
- Judging. Writing, art, debate, pie-eating. I may be able to serve as a judge or help draw up a rubric (criteria) for use in judging.

Paul Whitaker Ph.D.
Professor of Biological Sciences
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- Entomology = insect biology: presentations can focus on particular insect group, insect ecology, agricultural pest management, interactions between plants & insects, invasive species, or perhaps other topics. (any age group)
- Plant biology: presentations can focus on particular kinds of plants, plant structure & function, ecology of seeds & seedlings, plants whose seed dispersers went extinct during the last ice age, or perhaps other topics. (any age group)
- Organic agriculture: what it is, what it isn't, what the science does & doesn't tell us about how it compares to conventional agriculture. (high school)
- Reef madness: a historical perspective on competing theories on the origins of coral reefs. (high school)

Penny Workman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry
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- “Let it glow: Chemistry of Things that Glow in the Dark.” Demos can (and probably should!) be included. A room that can be made completely dark or very close is necessary for the demos.
- Polymers. Can include hands-on activity (making slime or silly putty).