

NCUR Application

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Title of Presentation:

Moths to Misogyny: The Influence of Feminism on the Male's Heroic Journey in The Great Gatsby

BHSU IRB, IACUC or Biosafety #:

Abstract:

F. Scott Fitzgerald lavishly introduces the night life of The Great Gatsby: "There was music from my neighbor's house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars" (Fitzgerald 39). The splendorous lights attracted the moth-like Long Islanders to the brilliant parties of Jay Gatsby in West Egg, yet their extravagant lives lack the fulfillment of adventure. The souls of those revelers must have longed for a heroic journey of sorts— which is exactly what Gatsby's parties promised. The lights of Gatsby's parties lured those who were searching for a journey, but they also served to expose the malignant force that brought those journeys to a halt. This essay explores the heroic journeys of three Long Islanders—Mr. Wilson, Jay Gatsby, and Tom Buchanan— while discussing the force which halted their journeys— misogyny. By uniquely pairing Joseph Campbell's archetypal theory of the hero's journey with Simone de Beauvoir's feminist ideals from her seminal text, *The Second Sex*, we will discover that each male's heroic journey in *The Great Gatsby* is thwarted by his own misogynistic acts. In showing misogyny to be their underlying barrier to success, we discover the impact of feminism on 20th century male literary journeys.

I certify that: My project is at or near completion and the abstract accurately represents my findings:

Yes

Statement of Student Responsibilities:

If my project is accepted for NCUR and I receive funding, I agree to:

- complete my project before departure
- make a trial presentation to my faculty advisor before departure
- present my paper/project at NCUR and attend other sessions
- all required IRB, IACUC and Biosafety approvals have been received
- give presentation at Black Hills Research Symposium (BHRS)
- Represent BHSU in a professional & responsible manner