Jieran Cao
“The Open: Emptiness, Language and the Human Condition”
Milan Kundera, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Saigyō Hōshi all questioned the meaning of being human by presenting the imminent threat of emptiness and the transience of life. A comparative study of contemporary Western texts and medieval Japanese Zen poetry, this thesis creates an East-West dialogue on the human condition and examines the function, limit, and potentialities of language.
Prof. Sng, Prof. Viswanathan

Belle Cushing
“Silhouette Studies: Selections from a translation from the French of Études de silhouettes, by Pierre Senges”
Translation of selections from Pierre Senges’s Études de silhouettes, a collection of vignettes that arise from fragments written by Franz Kafka. The introduction situates the work within trends of self-reflexive literature, elucidates translation challenges, and explores the work’s insistence on a fundamental, inexhaustible human need for narrative.
Prof. Swensen, Prof. Gander

Caroline Flanagan
"The Living and the Dead: A Translation of the Novel by Edmundo Paz Soldán"
An original translation of the novel, Los vivos y los muertos, by the Bolivian author Edmundo Paz Soldán. The introduction examines influences on Paz Soldán, the novel’s place within the Latin American literary tradition and within the McOndo literary movement, and the concept of a “global novel.”
Prof. Clayton, Prof. Merrim

Joseph Goodale
“SKY–GROUND”
Using the figure of lightning and the notion of the Riss (fissure, furrow, blueprint), the thesis examines the connecting of two languages or domains in texts by Friedrich Hölderlin, W. G. Sebald, and John Yau. In questioning connection while seeking it, the works of these authors gain their power.
Prof. Weinstein, Prof. Kniesche

Thomas Jarus
“The Mother’s Tongue: Subversive Language and Familial (Dys)function in Down These Mean Streets and Le thé au harem d’Archi Ahmed”
Piri Thomas and Mehdi Charef tell the stories of immigrant families from different countries and time periods, demonstrating the obstacles that can obstruct the immigrant’s path to success. The thesis investigates the immigrant novel’s ability to subvert structural inequalities, exploring how these authors manipulate bilingualism to reshape the dynamic of the family and reimagine its place in the host society.
Prof. Izzo, Prof. Whitfield

Julia Longoria
“Infiltrating the Florida Straits: Mariel Magazine and Revista Voces Reimagine Notions of Nation”
An examination of how two literary magazines across the Florida Straits imagine “Cuban” nationalism at two moments of increased traffic across the Gulf. From Miami, Mariel imagines an elite Cuban nation based in culture instead of politics; from Cuba, Voces imagines a more inclusive Cuba.
Prof. Nabers, Prof. Whitfield
Carolyn Napolitano
“‘A Stranger Who is Already Found Within’: Oriental Representations of the ‘Double’ in English and Italian Colonial Literature”
This thesis analyzes the various manifestations of the Freudian “double” in 19th-20th-century English and Italian colonial literature. In the novels of Joseph Conrad, Rudyard Kipling, Ennio Flaiano, and Fausta Cialente, the double comes to represent the destabilization of the European self-concept, the deconstruction of Oriental ideology, and heightened racial tension in the colonies during the Age of Imperialism.
Prof. Riva, Prof. Bernstein

Christina Pan
“The Selected Poems of Zang Kejia”
A translation of short poems by the modern Chinese poet Zang Kejia. The introduction explores Zang’s role in modern Chinese Poetry, his unique hybrid style of combining classical and vernacular poetic forms, and his focus on exposing the hardships of the peasants and the lower-class in modern China.
Prof. Gander, Prof. Wang

Hannah Poor
“Myriad Voices: A Collection of Short Stories by Female Authors from the Arab World”
Female authors, especially from the Arab world, are often expected to write about “women’s issues,” an expectation that can prevent readers from hearing their voices on other matters. The short stories translated in this thesis are by five authors from different Arab countries. Some of them deal with “women’s issues,” and some explore other aspects of human existence.
Prof. Muhanna, Prof. Creswell

Emma Ramadan
“Monospace, A Translation of Anne Parian”
An original translation of Monospace (2007), a book of prose poetry by the French writer Anne Parian. The construction of words on the page--half in footnotes--both conveys and contrasts with the narrator’s difficulties describing the construction of a 3D space. The accompanying introduction looks closely at the intricacies of translating sound.
Prof. Swensen, Prof. Gander

Alyssa Thomas
"More Than Their White Coats: What Literature Can Show Us About Physicians and Their Patients”
The physician-patient relationship relies on a careful balance of empathy and objectivity, intimacy and detachment. Fictional accounts of physicians in 19th- and 20th-century literature allow the reader to grasp the physician’s experience of this complicated relationship and see the human being behind the white coat.
Prof. Weinstein, Prof. Viswanathan

Kyle Wynter-Stoner
“A Road Longer Than Human Life: Desert Space and Time in Ibrahim al-Koni’s Nazīf al-Hajar and Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio’s Désert”
A comparative study of the novels Nazīf al-hajar, by Ibrahim al-Koni, and Désert, by Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio that examines the ways in which the subaltern protagonists’ experience of time is determined by the spaces they occupy. In doing so, the thesis explores themes of myth, history, and the crossing of borders delineating homeland.
Prof. Muhanna, Prof. Ravindranathan