

Pedagogical Inquiry Grant Report

Title of PIG: Planning and implementing the Theme: Climate Reckonings, Climate Justice.

This summary reports the outcomes of the Theme planning work that was lead by the team listed in this proposal. The year-long theme event planning and organizing provided the broader campus community with ample opportunities to learn more about Climate issues and to become more aware of the challenges related to climate justice.

Many of the outcomes of this work appeared in the Academic Theme [webpage](#). The web page was managed by Peter Shultz who was not listed at the time of the PIG application, but whose contributions to the success of the program cannot be overstated. The page currently holds a listing of recorded events with access to the recordings. During the year, the calendar displayed all theme related events. The term events is used for presentations by invited speakers for special events earmarked as Academic Theme related. These were all rather formal presentations, discussion sessions, or workshops hosted by people with expertise in an area. The number of Theme related events per month were as follows:

- September - 4 events
- October - 7 events
- November - 8 events
- December - 3 events
- January - 0 events
- February - 3 events
- March - 9 events
- April - 7 events
- May - 3 events

Currently the page lists events that have recordings associated with them. There are a few recordings still to be added. A full listing of the events can be searched on the [Whitman Calendar of Events](#) page. Choose a month and select the 'Academic Theme' in the Departments menu listing. The links to each presentation are still active.

You should also note that several of the presentations by speakers are not explicitly listed in the theme web page. For example, Cecilia Bitz presented the Brattain Lecture in September for the entire community to join. However, she also presented to talks to students in a seminar and a class. She also offered an informal conversation for Women in Stem students to talk about graduate study as a woman in a male dominated field. The listings of Theme events often had some offshoots like this that impacted students, staff, and faculty that are not directly listed as Theme related activities.

The Theme related events included prominent speakers (Michael Mann, Amitov Ghosh, and Robin Wall Kimmerer), Alumni Panels (Physics and Geology), and many of the Visiting Writers Series participants (Thank you to Katrina for her planning and hard work). There were also classroom events that didn't get put on the Theme calendar because the invitation was for students in the class only, thus making a broader invitation inappropriate. Even in those cases, the committee was helpful in logistical work, planning, and funding. The committee did accomplish its goal of facilitating theme related activities that were both large and small scale to enhance the community's engagement with the Climate theme.

The plan was presented as a framework based on several itemized areas of focus. Here is a response to each of these areas.

1. Communications and access:

Academic theme web page managed by Peter Shultz primarily.

Social media - Instagram page managed by Alicia Buchter during the fall semester. Unfortunately, Alicia studied abroad during the spring semester and we were unable to find a replacement for her position. She worked under the supervision of Elissa Brown in the Sustainability office.

2. Schedule coordination:

We were able to avoid conflicts between Theme related events during the year and most, if not all, other Departmental or Divisional speaking events. The scheduling involved regular calendar updates and comparisons to other activities planned on campus.

3. Curricular synergy:

Kirsten Nicolaysen hosted a conversation in August of 2021 before the start of the semester discussion ways to incorporate Theme related readings into coursework The presence of the theme web page and an outreach to faculty to incentivize student participation in theme related events helped to increase student participation during the year.

4. Outreach efforts:

This area was made difficult by the ongoing challenges for in-person events due to the COVID situation. All of the prominent speakers aside from Dr. Bitz had to give remote, online presentations rather than visit campus in person.

We made several connections with the CTUIR through the Long Tent events that happened in April. Several courses accessed the long tent to speak directly with members of the plateau nations represented at the meeting. In addition, some of the CTUIR members were invited to classes for presentations to students. (Phys105)

5. Endowment management:

We were able to coordinate endowed lectureships with visitors to leverage compensation packages for various presenters. These include the Brattain Lectureship, Brode Lectureship, VWS, Remple Lectureship, David Deal Lecture, WEB events, Skotheim Lecture, and Departmental funds. In addition, Dean Tipton was able to allocate funds from an endowment related to energy and President Murray generously provided some funds from her discretionary budget for support.

Specific curricular changes by PIG participants

The curricular impact of the academic theme on the participants in the PIG program were broader than initially planned. The individual efforts to identify speakers and curricular events created a whole that was larger than the sum of the parts. There were several events that had student participants from classes not connected to the primary audience. An example would be the alumni presenting to a physics seminar class on the topic of the electric grid in the pacific northwest. The audience included more than

double the number of students in the seminar course so that many students learned about the grid in addition to the target class members. This happened at many of the talks that had a specific approach or content area as the organizing focus.

BUDGET ITEMS:

The list below contains the participants and the approved compensation.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Kurt Hoffman	\$1000
Kirsten Nicolaysen	\$ 750
M Acuff	\$ 750
Doug Juers	\$ 750
Phil Brick	\$ 750
Elissa Brown	\$ 750
Total	\$4750

Members of this group will be available to work with the CTL to provide pedagogical connections and support based on our experiences. Two people are not available for an event: Elissa Brown no longer is employed by the College and Kirsten Nicolaysen is on sabbatical this coming academic year.

Reading support \$100

Kirsten was able to use these resources for her Gens176 course.

Student assistant \$700 (50 hours x \$14 / hr = \$700)

Alicia Buchter was hired to take on the responsibility of social media and communication of sustainability issues more broadly. In addition to regular Instagram posts, Alicia was also responsible for weekly contributions to the Whitman Today newsletter announcing upcoming theme related events. I don't know how much of this budget was used during the fall semester, but there is likely some of this money left over as it wasn't used during the spring semester.

Sincerely,

Kurt Hoffman - PIG coordinator.