



# Whitman Today

Friday, August 21, 2020

## Media of the Moment



Before you settle in for some last-weekend-before-classes time with your current favorite show, take a few minutes to listen to [The Cold Open Mini #31 - The Media of the Moment Edition!](#) In this podcast episode from Whitman's Film & Media Studies Department, professors Matt Reynolds and Kathryn Frank discuss media that is unexpectedly relevant to our present cultural moment, touching on "Watchmen," "Blockers," "RuPaul's Drag Race," "The Kurosagi Corpse Delivery Service," and a variety of other things along the way.

In the opening segment, Reynolds discusses how they arrived at this episode's topic: "I've been thinking, just in the midst of this crazy summer of a global pandemic and Black Lives Matter, and I've been reflecting over the summer about what are some of the media that I've encountered that kind of pushed us over the top in terms of this broader social acknowledgment of things like equity and structural racism and white supremacy?"

Do you have a blog, podcast or video channel affiliated with Whitman College? Please email [Margie Reese](mailto:Margie.Reese), director of content, to have your link added to our [Blogs and Podcasts page](#).

## Coping with Coronavirus



### Which Face Coverings Work Best?

Paper or cloth? Filter or no filter? Pleats or nose wire? There are many varieties of face coverings out there with a wide range of effectiveness in preventing the spread of droplets that carry the novel coronavirus. Scientists at Duke University recently carried out a [proof-of-concept study](#) to develop a simple test that compared 14 different types of masks. While not exhaustive of all the different masks out there, the general results showed that fitted N95 masks blocked the greatest amount of droplets, followed by surgical masks, then masks made with polypropylene. Fitted cotton and knit fabric masks are the most effective type of the styles available to the general public, but bandanas and gaiters/neck fleeces were at the bottom of the list, with results suggesting that wearing gaiters may actually be worse than wearing nothing at all.

## WhitLife: Get Involved!

Even though we find ourselves scattered around the world, we can still connect with each other! Student groups and college offices and departments are planning many virtual events and activities to help us stay connected while we're apart. Check out the [WhitLife student club and organization portal](#) for details about different groups, links to social media accounts and opportunities to learn more and participate in online activities. (Coming up tomorrow: [Virtual Trivia Night hosted by WEB.](#))

Fall 2020 Information Center

## Happening This Week

### TODAY, AUG. 21

10 a.m. [Faculty and Staff Coronavirus Task Force Open Office Hours](#)  
Each Friday at 10 a.m., join Whitman's Coronavirus Task Force Chair Josh Jensen to ask questions about Whitman's return-to-work and planning for the fall. All faculty and staff are invited to join the [Google Meet](#).

### THROUGH SATURDAY, AUG. 23

8 a.m.-5 p.m. [COVID-19 Testing on Campus](#)  
Pre-registered members of the Whitman community will receive free testing for COVID-19 from a mobile lab outside the Welty Student Health Center.

More Upcoming Events

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu).

## #FrontRowSeat

The classroom and the office look a little different this fall than in years past, and thanks to technology we've all got a front row seat for every lesson and meeting! Send a photo from your work or study space to [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu) to share in #FrontRowSeat.



Photo from Susanne Altermann, senior lecturer in biology: Wasp found on an Echinops inflorescence. Boar token is used for scale and to identify the photographer for an outdoor biodiversity lab assignment in BIOL 112 Biological World.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday-Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu). Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs.



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