

UNMASKED 2024 - SESSIONS

Ilse Spiropoulos

Student Sueli Gwiazdowski, Staff member Ilse Spiropoulos, and Professor Lydia McDermott present a comical and educational dialogue on the unique relationship between a disabled person and their access tools. Mobility aids and other access tools are often overlooked by those who don't use them daily. Understanding the role of these tools in public life is key to unmasking the situation of disability in activist, public, and private spaces. This lecture will include dramatic performances, meaningful theoretical lecture, and informative comedic sketches. (CW: Depictions of Ableism)

**Don't Touch Me:
Understanding
Accessibility
Tools in Public
Life**

Kate Moe

The world is in a refugee crisis, whether or not western ideologic system would care to admit it. In this session, the stories of refugees and legal advocates will be shared to discuss facing the crisis of their lives. The purpose of this session is to understand the aftermath of the summer of migration, as well as how current mass migration events happen and the status of them. Discussions of performativity are also very vital within this topic, as we shall ask the question what happens when the momentum of a movement largely impacted by performative activism stops. A prior trigger warning is warranted as topics such as death, trafficking, racism, and abuse are likely to be topics of discussion

**When the
momentum dies,
so do the
refugees**

Dante
Filippetto

This session will aim to push current engagement with P&P. We will ask how past engagement fails to meet the potential influence of P&P while examining campus activism on Palestine. What does attending P&P mean, whether for students, professors, community members, or admin? Each February, P&P comes up, students and professors take the day off to attend sessions; but, we do not see the changes that student leaders are calling for - or even the most minimal attempts to continue conversation beyond P&P.

**Attention
Beyond
Attendance:
Let's start with
Palestine**

**Alissa
Berman**

Led by three Jewish students, Judaism Beyond Zionism will engage participants in educational materials and discussions surrounding Zionism, anti-Semitism, Jewish identity, linguistics, and historical narratives. We will give a brief explanation of Judaism and its different sects, mythological narratives of Jews in Palestine, the emergence of Zionism, and the current relationship between Zionism and anti-semitism. We will begin with a presentation, have time for Q&A with the presenters, and finish with a workshop meant to encourage discussion between students. Attendees of all faiths, perspectives, and backgrounds are welcome. Content warning: anti-Palestinian and antisemitic violence

**Judaism
Beyond
Zionism**

**Ava
Brenkman**

Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla is the largest incarceration institution in the state. The US is responsible for the largest number of people incarcerated in the world. Individuals in marginalized groups impacted by the criminal justice system face social injustices and dehumanization ingrained in systematic oppression that targets and punishes them.

By listening to a discussion and individuals' voices from the Penitentiary, we challenge ourselves: Who do we see as criminals? How might we feel living next to someone who is a convicted felon? How could we empower individuals whose identities are shaped by experiences different from our own?

*This session may have triggering content, including shared violent actions and past trauma. Please feel free to find a different space for yourself or help others do so at any point, if needed.

**Dismantling
the Chains:
Unmasking
Systematic
Oppression
in Mass
Incarcerati
on**

Abby Peck

HSPs, or highly sensitive people, are people who have more sensitive nervous systems than the common population. Because of society's values, they may consistently get chucked to the bottom because they're "weaker" or not "tough enough" - and this gets worse with the added pressure of toxic masculinity, sexism, transphobia, and other forms of discrimination. Join me as I talk about what an HSP is, why we are awesome, and what challenges we face.

What are HSPs and Why Are They Discriminated Against?

Stuart Chapin

We all have identities that offer us some amount of unearned privilege or disadvantage in some situations. Lets take a look at ourselves and think about what those identities are and how they affect our lives, specifically our attitudes towards recreating outside. How does privilege manifest within the outdoor community and what affects does it have on those who we recreate with?

The Privilege of Outdoor Recreation

Jara Moreno Arostegui

The Listeners Project: Queremos Esucharte an oral history project in Walla Walla will feature Anyla Dior McDonald as she speaks about her experiences growing up in Walla Walla as a black youth and her motivations for writing her most recent work, "Black Joy & Black Tribulations: Poems, Short Stories and Essays"

Blacknificent

Barbara Saucedo Gonzalez

A broad overview and analysis of rhetoric and its use over time from the foundation of the United States and within its use in education systems, wars and various institutions, as well as looking into its newer uses and disguises today. This presentation will also look at and compare the power of rhetoric and where it is primarily used in regard to international relations between the U.S. and others.

“Der Sieger wird immer der Richter und der Besiegte stets der Angeklagte sein”

“The victor will always be the judge and the defeated will always be the defendant”

-Winston Churchill

Uncle Sam Needs You; Neocolonial Rhetoric and Postcolonial Mythos

Jeremy Davis

This session gives an inside look into what it's like to go through the process of discovering, getting diagnosed for, and finally getting accommodations for common learning disabilities and other “invisible” disabilities. This includes both challenges the presenter has personally faced and a broader look at structural equity problems that still persist today. The session also covers examples of academic evaluation methods that can be accidentally inequitable for students who have learning disabilities but are themselves unaware or unable to obtain proper documentation. The session concludes with proposals for making Whitman more accommodating of neurodiversity and learning disabilities.

Potentially distressing content warning:
PTSD, Sexual Assault

Getting Learning Disability Accommodations Is Harder Than You Think