



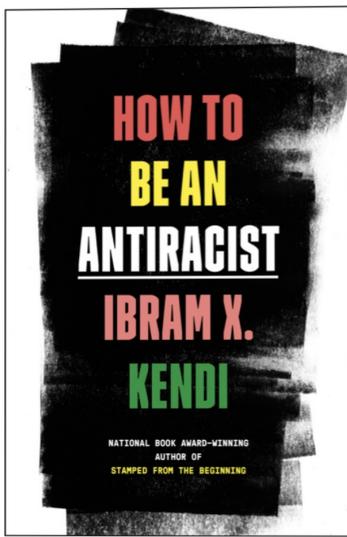
# Whitman Today

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

## Focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

What gives me hope is a simple truism. Once we lose hope, we are guaranteed to lose. But if we ignore the odds and fight to create an antiracist world, then we give humanity a chance to one day survive, a chance to live in communion, an chance to be forever free.

— "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi. *One World*. 2019. Chapter 18. "Survival."



As we enter the year with an academic theme of race, violence and health, Whitman community members from incoming students to alumni are already joining in conversations around our Common Read book.

To complement your reading, check out the [How to be an Antiracist book club kit](#), which includes thought-provoking discussion questions as well as Kendi's Antiracist Reading List.

## Announcements

### Penrose Library Chosen as Grant Pilot Site

Penrose Library will be a pilot site for an 18-month Institute for Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant awarded to LYRASIS, a nonprofit organization that supports open source technology applications for libraries and museums. The grant will support the migration of the ARMINDA repository website to new versions of its underlying software frameworks, Islandora and Fedora. ARMINDA holds library digital collections, including student and faculty scholarship, selected materials from the Archives, and digitized student newspapers. The ARMINDA team (Amy Blau, Kun Lin, Paige Morfitt, Dana Bronson, Ben Murphy and Rika Groff) will contribute their staff time to plan, support and evaluate the migration; in return, they will receive consultation and assistance from LYRASIS. Participation in the grant will realize significant cost savings for Penrose Library.

### Clarification on Teaching Hacks Facebook and Slack Channel

Please note that the Teaching@Whitman Facebook group shared in yesterday's Teaching Hack of the Week is only for faculty and staff. Faculty and staff wishing to join should contact the group moderators: Albert Schueller, Sarah Hurlburt or Sharon Alker. Additionally, some faculty and staff were unable to join the Slack channel. [A new join link](#) is now available.

## Academic Resources

As you get ready for the first day of class (five days and counting!), take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the variety of academic resources available to students. The [Academic page of the Fall 2020 Information Center](#) is a great place to start — explore technology tips, helpful thoughts on setting up a study space that works for you and links to different campus offices that provide a variety of academic supports.

[Fall 2020 Information Center](#)

## Coping With Coronavirus

### Parenting During the Pandemic

As many of us know from personal experience, parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic is extremely challenging. Cascade Centers, Whitman College's Employee Assistance Program, has a number of resources that can help, including general parenting advice, counseling, child care resources and how to talk with your child about the pandemic. Visit the [Employee Information page](#) in the Fall 2020 Information Center for more details.

## Happening This Week

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19-SATURDAY, AUG. 22

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).

## Getting to Know...

**BRIAN DOTT (he/him)**  
Professor of History

I teach about East Asian cultures in the History Department and the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Program. My area of research is Chinese cultural history, especially from about 1500-1900. Cultural historians focus on how culture functions and changes over time. For example, in [my recently published book about the chile pepper in China](#), I explore the role of the chile in Chinese cuisine, medicine, gender construction and imagery.

### What is your favorite aspect of the Whitman community?

I am drawn to the cross-disciplinary dialogues and engagement that faculty and students participate in. This intellectual atmosphere has allowed Heidi Dobson (Biology) and I to jointly offer the course History and Ethnobiology of the Silk Roads. I also really enjoy the experiential component of taking Whitman students to China.

*Dott will deliver the [2020 Convocation talk](#) at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23.*



"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.

