GENERAL COURSE GOALS / OUTCOMES / ASSESSMENT

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1) Articulate and practice the values and methods of liberal arts education.
2) Engage, experience, and explain different ways of knowing.
3) Pursue interdisciplinary study and discussion of important issues. Further information regarding these outcomes can be found in the First Year Program Reader.

These outcomes will be assessed variously through assignments that will involve writing and presentational skills, the week-long library project, class discussion and quizzes, exams, and co-curricular activities.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed three unexcused absence, but are responsible for all work related to classes missed. Students will have their grade lowered by one level for each unexcused absence beyond the abovementioned three. For example, students with a B+ average will be lowered to a B for their fourth unexcused absence, to a B- for the fifth absence, etc. Work may only be submitted late if the student has cleared it with the instructor. There will be no make-up exams for unexcused absences. Ever. Further information on attendance can be found in the First Year Program Reader (ix).

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not allowed in my classroom, unless I direct the class otherwise. They must be turned OFF and put away. If I see your cell phone once class has begun, you will be marked absent for the day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Westminster College’s policy on academic integrity will be rigorously enforced in this class. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the College Catalog for details of the policy. If you are not certain as to what constitutes an infraction of this policy, such as cheating or plagiarism, do not hesitate to consult the instructor (BEFORE
YOU TURN IN ANY WORK ABOUT WHICH YOU MAY HAVE DOUBTS). The policy as it applies to this course will be as follows: If you commit an act of plagiarism or are caught cheating in any way on any assignment (or commit any other violation of the College policy), you will fail the course and be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Further information on academic integrity can be found in the First Year Program Reader (x, 7-10).

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Support Services, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. phone: 724-946-7192 e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu

GRADED WORK

This semester, you will be asked to complete a variety of tasks aimed at improving your ability to meet the course objectives. These tasks, with their corresponding percentage of the course grade, are as follows:

- Quizzes/Homework 15%
- Participation 10%
- Co-Curricular Assignments 10%
- Presentation 10%
- Paper 1 10%
- Paper 2 15%
- Paper 3 10%
- Paper 4 10%
- Final Exam 10%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

All readings must be read in advance of the date for which they are assigned. There will be unannounced quizzes that will be easy if you keep up with the reading. Also, I may change the schedule for any reason during the semester.

Aug 28  Introduction

Aug 30  “Interrogating Texts: 6 Reading Habits to Develop in Your First Year at Harvard” (Inquiry Reader, pp. 12-15) and “Effective Learning Begins with the Right Attitudes” (IR, pp. 32-32)

Sep 4  People of the Book (POB), pp. 1-90

Sep 6  “The Veils of Maya,” (IR, pp. 16-30)

Sep 8

Sep 11  POB, pp. 91-189

Sep 13  “The Allegory of the Cave,” (IR, pp. 34-37)

Sep 15  “Angels on a Pin” (IR, pp. 47-48), Paper #1 (2-3 pages) assigned

Sep 18  POB, pp. 191-258


Sep 22  “Learning Is Not Fun: Reflections on the Liberal Arts and Living Your Best Life” (IR, pp. 49-52)

Sep 25  POB, pp. 259-316

Sep 27  Paper #1 Due

Sep 29  Paper #2 (3-4 pages) Assigned

Oct 2  Library

Co-Curricular #1 Due

Oct 4  Library

Oct 6  Library
Oct 9  “Introduction to Poetry,” (IR, pp. 104-105) and “Persimmons,” (IR, pp. 118-119)
Oct 11 “Learning to See,” (IR, pp. 94-96)
Oct 13  What to Listen for in Music, (IR, pp. 80-87)
Oct 16 Strategies for Looking, (IR, pp. 107-108)
Oct 18 “Conceptual Art and Galvanizing” (IR, pp. 88-93)
Oct 20 Jim Perkins Presentation

Midterm Break

Oct 25 Faculty Scholarship Panels, Paper 2 Due
Oct 30 “Evolution as Fact and Theory,” (IR, pp. 113-117)

Nov 1 The Christian Paradox: How a Faithful Nation Gets Jesus Wrong, (IR, pp. 153-159), Co-Curricular #2 Due

Nov 6

Nov 8 “Action Heroes,” (IR, pp. 137-140)

Nov 10

Nov 13 Banker to the Poor, (IR, pp. 198-204)

Nov 15

Nov 17 Kiva Micro-financing
Nov 20        Kiva Micro-financing Presentations

Thanksgiving Break

Nov 27        Paper #4 (2-3 pages) Assigned

Nov 29

Dec 1        Co-Curricular #3 Due

Dec 4

Dec 6

Dec 8        Paper 4 Due

Final Period:  Final Exam