This course: Inquiry 111 introduces Westminster students to the philosophy and practice of a liberal arts education. Students investigate classic and emerging questions which arise out of current social and intellectual concerns and exchange ideas within a supportive learning community. In the first part of the course, students evaluate traditional and contemporary discussions of liberal education and examine the ways liberal education is practiced at Westminster College. In the second part of the course, students apply the methods of a liberal education by investigating issues from multiple disciplinary and cultural perspectives. Instruction in information literacy and technology supports student research.

Course Objectives: By the end 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.

Pages vii-x of the Inquiry Reader provides more details about these objectives.

Skills Development: You will be learning and practicing four major sets of skills:
1. Critical thinking
2. Speech
3. Writing
4. Information Literacy

Texts:
1. The Inquiry 111 Reader, 2017
2. People of the Book

Preparedness: You should read the materials assigned for a particular class before coming to class. You should turn in assignments at the beginning of the class. Don’t skip class to finish an assignment!!

Attendance: Class attendance is important to your understanding of the materials presented and you should make every effort to attend class and fulfill the co-curricular activities. After three absences, your final grade will be reduced by 1/3rd of a letter grade (e.g., an A will change to an A-; a B+ grade will change to a B). An absence from an announced examination or quiz results in a failing grade, unless suitable arrangements are made. A student who seeks such a privilege should petition the instructor in writing prior to the schedule examination date. If the instructor considers that the petition should be granted, the student will be notified.

Occasionally, you may be asked to attend an event outside of class time. You will be informed about these activities as they occur.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is central to the purpose of any academic community. Please read the section in the catalog entitled “Academic Integrity.” Of special concern is the issue of plagiarism, which is defined as leading your reader or listener to believe that what you have written or said is your own work, when, in fact, it is not. The range of plagiarism includes word-for-word copying of another’s text without quotation marks and appropriate citation, to inappropriate paraphrasing of another’s text, to even the
unattributed borrowing of apt phrases or terms. All of these degrees of plagiarism are equally unethical and may be penalized with failure for the assignment, or, in extreme cases, failure for the course. Turn-it-in.com may be used during this course.

**Respect:** Respect for one another is an important facet of any endeavor, academic or otherwise. As a class, we will be creating a list of positive behaviors that ALL OF US will be expected to follow.

**Assistance:**
1. **Instructor:** My phone number and email are at the beginning of the document. I will answer e-mail in a reasonable time frame. Please don’t expect that I will respond immediately to emails, particularly if they are sent between the hours of 6 pm and 8 am. I invite you to stop by my office if you have any questions or just need to see a friendly face.
2. **Learning & Writing Services:** see [http://www.westminster.edu/academics/learning-writing-services.cfm](http://www.westminster.edu/academics/learning-writing-services.cfm) for an appointment.
3. **Disability Services:** Faith Craig at 724-946-7192 to schedule an appointment if you have special needs of a physical, mental or academic nature.

**Graded Components:**
1. A series of readings in the Inquiry Reader and People of the Book (see tentative schedule).
2. Attendance and class participation. 5%
3. Three co-curricular events and response papers. 5%
4. An oral report. 5%
5. Information literacy sessions (in the library) and assignment. 10%
6. A research project. 30%
7. 8-10 assignments. 25%
8. One examinations. 20%

**Co-Curriculars:** Inquiry students are expected to attend at least three campus events designated as “co-curricular experiences” and respond to these experiences in a 1-page written paper. Write-ups of particular events must be turned in no later than seven (7) calendar days after the event. A list of potential events will be distributed to the class. Please note that each Inquiry section may have different requirements for these co-curriculars. Just because your roommate can attend an event does not mean that you can also use these event. Please check if me if you’re uncertain about what counts.