Course Description:
Inquiry 211 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 of ideas within a supportive learning community. Students will evaluate traditional and contemporary discussions of liberal education and examine the ways liberal education is practiced at Westminster College. Students will apply the methods of liberal education by investigating issues from multiple disciplinary and cultural perspectives. Instruction in information literacy and technology supports student research.

Course Objectives:
Through engagement with course content and individual and group learning activities, students will learn to:

1. Articulate the values and methods of a liberal arts education;
2. Engage, experience, and explain different forms of learning;
3. Pursue interdisciplinary study and discussion of important cultural and academic issues.
4. Summarize, analyze and evaluate diverse sources of information;
5. Demonstrate a variety of skills – cognitive, social, interpersonal and technological – to acquire, study and express knowledge; and
6. Study and articulate the interdisciplinary nature of human knowledge;

Course Texts and Resources:
Additional audiovisual and textual resources will be provided by the instructor during the course of the semester.

Westminster College Mission Statement
The mission of Westminster College is to help men and women develop competencies, commitments, and characteristics which have distinguished human beings at their best. The liberal arts tradition is the foundation of the curriculum continually designed to serve this mission in a rapidly changing world.

The College sees the well-educated person as one whose skills are complemented by ever developing values and ideals identified in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Westminster’s quest for excellence is a recognition that stewardship of life mandates the maximum possible development of each person’s capabilities.

OUTCOMES:

to reason logically and evaluate critically to communicate effectively
to think creatively, and appreciate aesthetic expressions to demonstrate intellectual curiosity
to acquire knowledge of self, society, human cultures, the natural world, and human relationships to God to apply knowledge to contemporary issues to demonstrate moral and ethical commitments to neighbor, society, and the natural world to demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning and the acquisition of skills for careers and responsible service as world citizens.
**Evaluation Criteria:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit Content: Readings and Quizzes</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Unit Tasks</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Project</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Library Sessions and Tasks</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^Co-Curricular Tasks</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Attendance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>++ Participation and Work Ethic</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

*/*Unit Content Readings are assessed by [1] the participation in unit discussions, and [2] the integration of Unit content into course tasks.

*/*You must have active Westminster College digital accounts and access to e-mail, D2L and related tools to fulfill course requirements. You are responsible for gathering the required skills to succeed in a digital environment. Please seek help on the use of D2L, e-mail or technological tools necessary for this course.

*/*Unit tasks, quizzes, and other class projects are to be submitted on the due date. Tardy jobs will lose 10% of the grade per late day; they will not be accepted after the fourth (4th) day. Assignments will be submitted via the D2L system for which NO hard copies will be accepted. Guidelines and evaluation criteria for assignments and class projects will be provided prior to and/or the day of the announcement.

+ Attendance will be taken at each class. Attendance at every class, coming to class on time and staying until class ends is expected and required. Coming to class late or leaving early will be considered as one-half unexcused absence. You may need to be absent from class on rare occasions or for serious reasons. Acceptable excuses for absence are [1] medical, personal or family emergencies and require a signed note from a family member, corresponding representative or licensed professional or [2] professional or educational engagement supported by evidentiary records. Please, notify Picó in writing ahead of time, or call and leave a message in the case of an emergency. Five (5) points will be deducted from your Class Attendance points for each unexcused absence. Students with more than three (3) absences may not receive credit for the course. Your inability to live up to attendance expectations will be considered as cause for a failing grade in the course.

++Participation in online activities via D2L will be monitored as part of the Participation evaluation criteria.

++Work Ethics. It is of extreme importance to provide original work, professionally written statements, and properly cited work of other literary and digital authorities or sources. Some written tasks will be turned in via the Turnitin System. Plagiarism and unprofessional behaviors in our face-to-face or digital learning environments will not be tolerated and may be considered as a cause for a report to university officials.

++Westminster College promotes mutual respect, tolerance for individual differences, and collaboration among colleagues. Professional attitude and participation are expected and required. If you are antagonized, provoked or threatened by the behaviors of a classmate during class or group work assignments, please notify Picó as soon as possible. Unprofessional behaviors will not be tolerated.
BYOD. The use of wireless computers and tablets is allowed during the class period to view, download, and read materials from and for the course. You will be asked to turn your technology off if caught involved using it for personal business or communication during class. You will be expected to bring your technology during BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) sessions.

The use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited during class unless authorized by the instructor. There is time for everything. Our time together is devoted to the learning and exchange of ideas. You can communicate with family and friends before, after class or during breaks. Phone activity causes unnecessary distractions and interruptions to you and your colleagues, and it is disrespectful to your instructor and peers. Keep it in your bag. You will be asked to put it away if caught misusing it repeatedly during class. Please notify the instructor at the beginning of the session if you need to maintain your device active for a special reason such as a family emergency, notification or call.

^ Co-Curricular Tasks – During the Fall, Inquiry 211 students are required to attend three (3) campus events designated as “Co-Curricular.” This requirement provides an opportunity to take advantage of special events on campus that relate to the themes of Inquiry 211. These events are scheduled in the afternoons, evenings or on the weekends. A list of events will be provided by the instructor during the first week of classes.

Library Sessions – During the semester, 3 mandatory sessions have been scheduled to acquire the necessary skills in using WC Library resources. The sessions are part of the course program. See INQ211 course outline for dates. Students and instructor will meet in the library for the completion of exercises. The library sessions will require you to complete a series of tasks. Completion of Library Tasks are part of the evaluation criteria of the course.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 -100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 93 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86 - 89 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 85 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 83 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 - 79 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 75 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 73 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68 - 69 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66 - 67 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 66 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60 %</td>
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TALK TO THE PROFESSOR IF A PROBLEM ARISES OR YOU NEED HELP!!!
**Westminster College Resources**

**Academic Support**
The Learning Center is open for students who need assistance to improve their academic performance. The Center and its staff are in the newly renovated Thompson and will assist the faculty by developing skills within Clark building. The staff also their students that enable them to succeed in their specific disciplines. The Teaching Assistants, many of whom are among Westminster’s exceptional students, are prepared to help students identify strengths and weaknesses in reading and writing skills, strategies for improving these skills, and specific assistance in almost any class offered. Please contact the Learning Center at (724) 946-6700 with any questions, comments, or special requests.

**L I S Help**
Library and Information Services oversees technological services for the campus community. The department provides services and support for students, staff, and faculty in their use of information resources. If you require technical support, you can contact LIS Help by calling extension 6000 or (724) 946-6000.
Reporting online via the LIS Help Tech Trouble Report
Email: LIShelp@westminster.edu

Stopping by the LIS Help Desk on the first floor of McGill Library
LIS Help Desk Hours Academic Year (Aug.31 - May 12)
(special hours may apply during holidays)
Monday Thursday:  7:30 AM - 1:00 AM
Friday:  7:30 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday:  9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday:  1:00 PM - 1:00 AM

**Students with Disabilities Statement**

Westminster College makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. This includes individuals with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health disorders who meet the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities have the same responsibility as other students to meet the University's academic, technical, and behavioral standards and to follow the University's general policies and guidelines regarding standards of conduct. Students who plan to request accommodations should contact the Disabilities Resource Center at the beginning of each semester and provide the instructor with a letter outlining your specific academic needs. To determine whether you qualify for accommodations, or if you have questions about services and procedures for students with disabilities contact:

*Faith Craig*
**Disabilities Resource Center**
**Phone: 724.946.7192**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **WEEK 1** 8/28 – 9/1 | **Gear Up!**  
Welcome to INQ211  
Establishing a Learning Community  
Getting to Know Each Other  
Westminster College Mission Statement  
The Westminster Plan  
Academic Integrity Policy  
WC First Year Student Research Prize |
| **WEEK 2** 9/4 – 9/8 | **The History of Human Knowledge**  
The interdisciplinary nature of human knowledge – A Historical Perspective  
Effective Learning Begins with the Right Attitudes (Reader)  
Statement on Liberal Learning by AAC&U (Reader)  
Liberal Education, Moral Education (Reader) |
| **WEEK 3** 9/11 – 9/15 | **Intro to the Ways of Knowing**  
Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant (Reader)  
Learning to See (Reader)  
Conceptual Art and Galvanizing (Reader)  
A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings: A Tale for Children (Reader) |
| **WEEK 4** 9/18 – 9/22 | **Effective Communication**  
Science and Religion (Reader)  
Evolution as Fact and Theory (Reader)  
Of TED Talks and Podcasts |
| **WEEK 5** 9/25 – 9/29 | **People of the Book**  
Intro Discussion of People of The Book  
Class Project – Goals, Methodology and Expected Outcomes  
Interdisciplinary Team Selection and Organization |
| **WEEK 6** 10/2 – 10/6 | **Politics and Economics**  
The World is Flat (Reader)  
Banker to the Poor (Reader)  
The New Slavery (Reader)  
The KIVA Project |
| **WEEK 7** 10/9 – 10/13 | **People of The Book**  
Thematic and Interdisciplinary Ponderings  
Defining the Topic for the Class Project  
**Friday, October 13 – Library Session 1**  
- Brainstorm and explore possible topics and questions.  
- Select 1 topic to explore in-depth |
| **WEEK 8** 10/16 – 10/20 | **The Trivium in Action**  
The Christian Paradox: How a Faithful Nation Gets Jesus Wrong (Reader)  
The Allegory of the Cave (Reader)  
**Friday, October 20 – Jim Perkins Session** |
| **WEEK 9** *10/21 FB* 10/25 – 10/27 | *Monday, October 21 - Fall Break – No Class  
**Wednesday, October 25 – Faculty Scholarship Panels**  
**Friday, October 27 – Library Session 2**  
- Read the source  
- Create and apply evaluation criteria to sources |
| WEEK 10  
10/30 – 11/3 | **The Quadrivium in Action**  
Inquiry Strategies of Liberal Education  
What to Listen for in Music (Reader)  
Strategies for Looking (Reader) |
| WEEK 11  
11/6 – 11/10 | **People of The Book**  
Thematic and Interdisciplinary Intersections  
Revision of short research paper  
**Friday, November 10 – Library Session 3**  
- Complete Grade the Source sheets for 3 of the sources  
- Complete and submit short research paper (2-3 pages) |
| WEEK 12  
11/13 – 11/17 | **The Quadrivium in Action**  
The Veils of Maya (Reader)  
Angels on a Pin (Reader)  
Arithmetic in Music  
The End of Forgery |
| WEEK 13  
11/20  
*11/22 – 11/24 TXB | **Interdisciplinary Enterprises**  
STEM/STEAM – The explicit intersection of the Liberal Arts  
* Wednesday, November 22 – 24 – No Class – Thanksgiving Break |
| WEEK 14  
11/27 – 12/1 | **Making Your Mark**  
Class Project Work – Start-Up Methodology in action  
Writing a script for an oral panel discussion  
Visit to Audio Recording Studio |
| WEEK 15  
12/4 – 12/8 | **Making Your Mark**  
Class Project Work – Start-Up Methodology in action  
Revising the script for the thematic oral panel discussion  
Visit to Audio Recording Studio |
| WEEK 16  
12/11 – 12/14 | Final Period – Project Presentations  
Class Project Upload to D2L Site |

This is the for the INQ 211 course. Dr. Picó reserves the right to change the schedule and evaluation criteria if/as the need arises.

All changes will be notified to the class before they take effect. The topics are many and the outline seems a bit hefty, so be careful not to fall behind.

**CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR IF A PROBLEM ARISES OR YOU NEED HELP!**

Dr. Picó will answer messages or requests within a 24- to 48-hour period. Messages or requests received during the weekend will be answered on the next workday.