**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the philosophy and study of a liberal arts education. It provides students with the opportunity to investigate and exchange ideas, to explore multiple perspectives and to become more familiar with the process of open inquiry. These different ways of “knowing” and “understanding” will be presented to students through various texts and other forms of artistic expression that explore the application of the liberal arts to specific social, moral, and political issues. Throughout the course students will participate in activities that are designed to sharpen their critical thinking, writing and presentation skills. We will begin the course with the concept of the liberal arts education. We will then consider various limitations on our ability to perceive the world accurately and then consider the ways in which using multiple viewpoints and approaches to knowledge can improve our insight. We will also explore how to use criteria to evaluate normative claims, and then develop and apply our own criteria to make an investment.

**Course Outcomes and Objectives:**

1. Articulate and practice the values and methods of a liberal arts education
2. Engage, experience and explain different ways of knowing
3. Pursue interdisciplinary study of important ideas

**Required Readings:**

The 2018 Inquiry reader is required for this course.

*additional required readings will be made available to students through MyWestminster at the discretion of the professor

**Student Requirements:**

*How to succeed in this class:*

1. **Attendance Policy:** Due to the sheer volume and complexity of the material in this class, regular attendance is essential for success in this course. I reserve the right to lower final grades in the case of excess absences (more than three excused or unexcused) or tardiness. You are responsible for signing an attendance sheet that will be distributed. **If you miss more than 6 classes, as excused OR unexcused absences, you will not pass this class.** In addition, you will NOT be allowed to make up any quizzes or other points that you miss by being late or absent.
2. In addition to attending regularly scheduled class periods, students are required to attend three “co-curricular” events. Students are free to choose any three events from the Inquiry-approved list, and to seek approval of other events that are not on that list. Co-curricular write-ups are due within one week of the event. The first must be turned in by September 28th. The second must be turned in by November 2nd and the third must be turned in by November 30th. Guidelines for co-curricular write-ups will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

3. Complete assigned reading and be prepared to engage in discussion/ in-class activities. Completing the assigned reading not only prepares you for discussion, but also enables you to seek clarification on topics that are not clear. While I encourage the academic expression of informed opinions during discussion and in-class activities, I will not condone intentionally offensive or aggressive behavior towards others. Please be respectful of yourself, as well as those around you.

4. **Technology Policy**: This class adopts a free learning environment policy, meaning that everyone is free to learn without disruptions. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices that could be distracting to others before class or simply set them to silent if you are waiting for a crucial call or text. If you need to answer the call or respond to the text message please exit the classroom to do so and return when you are finished. Socially constructing a free learning environment demonstrates your commitment to your individual academic success, your respect for the professor and your respect for your academic colleagues.

5. Take notes of the main topics covered during lectures, discussion and videos. Taking notes provides you with a study tool.

6. Complete exams, quizzes and all other assignments on time.

7. **Judicious use of email**: please be advised that I will only read and respond to my email during regular work hours on weekdays. I ask that you communicate with me via email only for urgent matters that cannot be addressed in person before or after the class period, or during my office hours. In addition, please identify yourself and this class in your email.

**Course Evaluation:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-curricular write-ups (3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy Session Paper and assignments</td>
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<td>Group Discussion Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Interviews/Paper assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Participation &amp; Activities</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Faculty Scholarship Panels</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Art Interpretation Presentation/Paper</td>
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<td>*KIVA Project</td>
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<td>*Wk #14 – Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam activity</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Total** 100%
**Letter Grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%-89%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80%-82%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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**Bonus and extra credit:** The opportunity to earn bonus points or extra credit may arise throughout the course. In such a case, they will be explained by the Professor. Any extra credit opportunity will be made available to the entire class and will not be offered on an individual basis.

**Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is part of good character and is central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community. Thus, all members of the Westminster community, including students, faculty, staff and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College. All members of the Westminster community are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the College policy and procedures described in the Undergraduate Catalogue. For more details please go to the following website:

http://www.westminster.edu/admissions/graduate/graduateethics.cfm.

Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of this code of behavior. It can take several forms, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, misconduct, and providing false information. Academic dishonesty breaks the sense of trust that is central to a vital educational community like Westminster. Dishonesty in any of these forms will not be tolerated. Students who engage in academic dishonesty face the penalties outlined in the College policy. In addition, all violations will be reported to the office of Academic Affairs. **Work that you submit in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism prevention service that also provides educational information on how to practice honesty in the conduct of research and writing of papers.**

If you are unsure about what does and does not constitute plagiarism, please ask me. You may also find it helpful to check out Paul Hasselbee’s “A Primer on Plagiarism”:


For the purpose of this course, I expect you to **do your own work** unless collaboration with others is required, allowed, or encouraged for a particular assignment. I also expect you to do **original work** for this course. This means that you may not submit work used for another course for the purpose of fulfilling requirements in this course, unless specific arrangements are made with me and you also have the permission of the other instructor. Behaving with academic integrity also means that you put forth your **fair share of effort into group discussions and group work** undertaken in this course. See me if you are unclear about the meaning of any elements of this code.

**Inclusion Policy:** 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 Ms. Faith Craig, Director of Disability Support Services, in 209 Thompson Clark Hall, at (724) 946-7192 or at craigfa@westminster.edu.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will be accepted. For every day that an assignment is late (including weekend days) five points will be deducted. Assignments are considered late if they are not received by the end of class time on the day that they are due.
**Recording devices**: Due to the potential confidentiality issues associated with discussion material in this course, no recording devices are permitted.

**Inclement weather and class cancellation**: We experience severe winter weather in Northwest Pennsylvania. The procedure for cancelling class will be as follows: Dr. Chapman will notify students via email about the class cancellation and the substitute assignment (if applicable).

**Tentative Outline (Subject to Change at the discretion of the Professor)**

**Week 1**
Monday 8/27 – Introductions

Wednesday 8/29 – Review D2L
   Austin – ‘What nobody is going to Tell you about Freshman Year’ (D2L)
   Wade – ‘Professors Pet Peeves’ (D2L)
   *1.1 Westminster College Mission Statement

Friday 8/31 –  
   *1.2 Westminster Plan
   1.5 Statement on Liberal Learning
   *1.3 Westminster College Academic Integrity Policy

**Week 2**
Monday 9/3 - DROP/ADD deadline
   *1.7 Effective Learning Begins with the Right Attitudes
   • Hand-out/discuss Professor Interview Homework

Wednesday 9/5 – 1.10 Liberal Education, Moral Education
   1.14 Making College ‘Relevant’

Friday 9/7 – 1.4 Gilroy, “Interrogating Texts” p. xvii
   1.13 Learning is Not Fun: Reflections on the Liberal Arts and Living your Best Life

**Week 3**
Monday 9/10 – 1.3 The Veils of Maya

Wednesday 9/12 – Continue discussing the Veils of Maya
   1.8 Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant

Friday 9/14 – *1.9 The Allegory of the Cave

**Week 4**
Monday 9/17 – 2.3 Statistics Among the Liberal Arts
   2.1 Jackson and Jameson – ‘UFO Cults and Us’
   *2.12 Evolution as Fact and Theory

Wednesday 9/19 – 3.2 The Gospel of Consumption
   3.6 Don’t Blame Wal-Mart

Friday 9/21 – Professor Interview Papers are Due
Week 5
Monday 9/24– 2.5 My Forty Years in the Witness Protection Program

Tuesday 9/25 – 7p – Jim Perkins Presentaion

Wednesday 9/26 – *3.8 Letter from Clergy
* 3.9 Letter from Birmingham Jail

Friday 9/28 – 3.10 The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro

**1st Co-curricular assignment due

Week 6
Monday 10/1– 3.1 Action Heros
  3.17 The New Slavery

Wednesday 10/3– Catch up day – Review Term Paper Assignment

Friday 10/5 - Meet in the Library

Week 7
Monday 10/8– Review for exam #1

Wednesday 10/10– Exam #1

Friday 10/12– Meet in the Library

Week 8
Monday 10/15 – *2.4 from What to Listen for in Music
  2.9 Strategies for Looking

Wednesday 10/17– INQ Field Trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art

Friday 10/19 - Meet in the Library

Week 9
Monday 10/22 – Art Interpretation Presentations
*Art Interpretation assignments are due to the designated D2L folder by class time

Wednesday 10/24 – In-class writing lab (bring your rough drafts from LIS week)

Friday 10/26 –3.12 from The World is Flat
  3.13 from Banker to the Poor
*Rachels – ‘The Challenge of Cultural Relativism’ (D2L)

*Library Assignment Due (to designated D2L folder)
Week 10

Monday 10/29 – Fall Break – No Class

Wednesday 10/31 – Faculty Scholarship Panels – Attend one panel (write a one page summary)

Friday 11/2 – Discuss the faculty scholarship panels

3.14 Economic Security

Assignment: KIVA website (www.kiva.org)

**2cd Co-curricular assignment due

Week 11

Monday 11/5 – 3.16 Is Aid a Waste of Money?

Wednesday 11/7 – KIVA Group Discussions

Friday 11/9 – KIVA Group Presentations

Week 12

Monday 11/12 - Review People of the Book, pp. 1-189

Wednesday 11/14– Review People of the Book, pp. 193-368

Review for Exam #2

Friday 11/16 – Exam #2

Week 13

Monday 11/19 – In-class activity

Wednesday 11/21 – Thanksgiving Break

Friday 11/23 – Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

Monday 11/26 - In-class Documentary

Wednesday 11/28 - In-class Documentary

Friday 11/30 - In-class Discussion

** 3rd Co-curricular assignment due

Week 15

Monday 12/3 - In-class Documentary

Wednesday 12/5 - In-class Documentary

Friday 12/7 - In-class Discussion

Week 16

Final Exam: Consult Final Exam Schedule