INQ 111 – Inquiry: Introduction to a Liberal Arts Education – Fall 2018

Instructor
Dr. Helen Boylan
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Office Hours
M 12:50-1:50, W 9:20-10:20
T 11:00-12:00
Others by appointment

Class Time  MWF 8:10-9:10 pm PH 110

Text

Course Description
This course 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.

Objectives
- Articulate and practice the values and methods of a liberal arts education.
- Engage, experience and explain different ways of knowing.
- Pursue interdisciplinary study and discussion of important issues.

Academic Integrity
The College's Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) will be strongly enforced. Violations of the AIP include cheating, misconduct, plagiarism, and providing false information. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The first citation for academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade for the specific assignment. The second citation will result in a failing grade for the course. All citations for academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College, in accordance with college policy. Details of the AIP can be found in the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog. TurnItIn.com may be used to evaluate papers for plagiarism.

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 Resources, located in 414 Thompson-Clark Hall. Phone: 724-946-7192. Email: craigfa@westminster.edu.

Attendance Policy
- Students will not be permitted to make up an exam unless permission is granted from the instructor prior to the scheduled exam time.
- Attendance to class is mandatory.
  - 3 unexcused absences result in lowering of the student’s grade by 1 letter grade.
  - 5 unexcused absences result in lowering of the student's grade by 2 letter grades.
  - More than 5 unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.
- Students are responsible for all class work, quizzes, homework, and lectures whether in attendance or not.
- Students may arrange for make-up work for excused absences. An excused absence will be granted at the discretion of the instructor.
- Arranging make-up work is the responsibility of the student and should be completed within two weeks time of the scheduled work.
- A grade of zero will be given for work not made up and for work missed due to unexcused absences.
- Work handed in late will be penalized 10% for each class day that it is late.
Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Scale (out of 100%)</th>
<th>Point Distribution (pts)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A ≥ 93</td>
<td>Reading Guides 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>93 &gt; A- ≥ 90</td>
<td>Quizzes 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 &gt; B+ ≥ 87</td>
<td>Assignments/Activities 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 &gt; B ≥ 83</td>
<td>IF-AT Group Work 10%</td>
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<td>83 &gt; C+ ≥ 77</td>
<td>Debate Research Project 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 &gt; C ≥ 73</td>
<td>Co-curriculars (3) 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 &gt; C- ≥ 70</td>
<td>Exams (3) 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 &gt; D ≥ 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F ≤ 60</td>
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Readings
Students are expected to read the assigned material before coming to class. A reading guide with questions will be available for each reading assignment. The readings will be used as a springboard for class discussion and activities. Reading guide submission, pop quizzes or alternative assessment tools will be used to test the students’ level of preparation.

Quizzes
Quizzes will be given regularly on Fridays. They will incorporate material covered since the previous quiz/exam. Quizzes may not be made up, but a student’s lowest quiz score can be dropped.

Assignments/Activities
In addition to the readings, students will be required to complete additional assignments and/or in-class activities. Short writing assignments will be a primary focus.

IF-AT Group Work
Each Monday, the assigned reading(s) will be discussed in a “journal club” format in small groups. Grades will be based on individual and team quiz scores using IF-AT methodology.

Library/Debate Research Project
Information technology is a key skill that is covered in INQ 111 during three library sessions (10/3, 10/10, 10/17). The class will meet in McGill Library for the library sessions. Each student will complete a debate research project related to a topic of the student's choosing, with the library sessions being used to support the research for the project. The details on the debate research project will be provided on a separate handout. The top debate research project will be selected for inclusion in the Undergraduate Research and Arts Celebration (URAC) in April. (See Reader for details on First-Year Student Research Prize.)

Co-Curricular Activities
In many cases, learning outside the classroom is as good as – if not better than – learning inside the classroom. As a requirement for this course, students are expected to attend three co-curricular activities at Westminster or elsewhere. These include cultural and educational events. The co-curricular summary must detail the event and explain how it relates to topics covered in INQ 111. Each co-curricular must be presented in a different format:

- Written communication (2-3 pages)
- Oral communication (~5 min presentation with visual aids)
- Creative communication (artwork, poetry, music, etc.)

**One co-curricular event must be the Student Symposium on the Environment to be held on Thurs. Dec. 6. From 5:30-9:00pm. Students must attend either one hour of the poster session (5:30-7:00pm) or one hour of the oral presentations (7:00-8:30pm).**
Extra Credit
Extra credit can be obtained by writing up “liberal studies of current events.” A feature article in a news publication or magazine is the focus of this assignment. A 2-page write-up is required. The write-up must summarize the article and relate the article to class or explain how a liberal arts background helps understand the topic. The article must be cited properly using MLA guidelines, and a hard copy of the article must be submitted with the write-up. A total of three extra credit assignments (each worth up to .75%) may be submitted.

Tentative Weekly Format

Monday – “Mindful Monday,” IF-AT group work, discussion of reading, co-curricular reports
Wednesday – “Workshop Wednesday” & applications to readings
Friday – Weekly quiz & “Freeform Friday” (nontraditional class)

Important Dates
See attached schedule for important dates.
### Tentative Schedule for INQ 111 Fall 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week starting</th>
<th>Mindful Monday</th>
<th>Workshop Wednesday</th>
<th>Freeform Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>Welcome to best INQ ever! Syllabus, schedule Westminster College Mission Statement</td>
<td>Westminster Plan Workshop → time management, Pomodoro Technique Interrogating Texts: 6 Reading Habits to Develop</td>
<td>Academic Integrity Policy (video assignment) Academic Integrity Policy Class meets in PH 103 Computer Lab</td>
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**September Theme: The Environment as a “Way of Knowing”**

| Sept. 3 | Plagiarism (video assignment) Effective Learning Begins with the Right Attitude Setting the Stage: Environment | Workshop → your “environment” The Gospel of Consumption | Don’t Blame Walmart Walking tour to Field Station or Tiny House |
| Sept. 10 | Individual Professional Development Interviews (in place of class time) Pre-interview questionnaire | Individual Professional Development Interviews (in place of class time) Forget Shorter Showers (short story and short film) | Individual Professional Development Interviews (in place of class time) Plastic China (documentary, shown at alternative time) |
| Sept. 17 | Why Protect Nature | Native American writings (supplemental) Writing workshop → sentence level structure | Tragedy of the Commons Fishing Game |
| Sept. 24 | *My Forty Years in the Witness Protection Program* (preview to Storytelling as a “Way of Knowing”) | Evolution as Fact and Theory Writing workshop → paragraph level structure | Eating Better than Organic (supplemental) OR The Lorax (supplemental) Potential field trip |

**October Theme: Storytelling as a “Way of Knowing”**

| Oct. 1 | Exam #1 Setting the Stage: Storytelling | Library Session #1 Associated library/project assignment | Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant The Allegory of the Cave Improv Activity (meet in Beeghly Theater) |
| Oct. 8 | From What to Listen for in Music (On Being Episode with Joe Carter) | Library Session #2 Associated library/project assignment | Learning to See Strategies for Looking Class meets in Foster Art Gallery |
| Oct. 15 | **UFO Cults and Us** | Library Session #3  
Associated library/project assignment | *How to Read Poetry* (supplemental)  
*Three Poems by Billy Collins, Words, Persimmons*  
Poetry Reading (location TBA) |
| Oct. 22 | **A mathematical model of oppression: the Petrie Multiplier**  
(supplemental) | **The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas**  
Writing workshop → essay level  
structure & proper citations | TBA  
Potential guest speaker on storytelling |
| Oct. 29 | **No Class Mon & Tues — Fall Break** | Individual Professional Development  
Interviews (in place of class time)  
*Attend a Research Panel* | Individual Professional Development Interviews  
(in place of class time)  
*Lion (film, shown at alternative time)*  
Debate Research Paper Due |
| **People of the Book Week** | | | |
| Nov. 5 | **Defying the Group** | **From Sarajevo to Kosovo: The Wars of Europe’s Last Dictator**  
Workshop → effective teamwork | The Idea of a Sacred Text  
Visit to Library |
| **November Theme: Civic Engagement as a “Way of Knowing”** | | | |
| Nov. 12 | **Exam #2**  
**Setting the Stage: Civic Engagement** | **A Life in Statistics**  
KIVA Project  
Workshop → data collection and  
analysis with Excel | *Is Aid a Waste of Money? OR Microfinance Misses Its Mark*  
KIVA Project (location TBA) |
| Nov. 19 | **From The World is Flat**  
KIVA Project | No Class – Thanksgiving Break | No Class – Thanksgiving Break |
| Nov. 26 | **Letter from Clergy**  
**Letter from Birmingham Jail** | **The Christian Paradox: How a Faithful Nation Gets Jesus Wrong**  
Workshop → Crucial Conversations | The Good Samaritan  
Potential field trip |
| Dec. 3 | **The New Slavery** | from **Hard Times OR from Pedagogy of the Oppressed**  
Workshop → effective networking | Action Heroes  
Potential guest speaker |
| Dec. 10 | **Final Exam/Activity**  
Tues. Dec. 11  
11:30 AM-2:00 PM | | |