

INQUIRY 111-16: Introduction to the Liberal Arts

MWF 2 – 3 PM *** TC314

Instructor: Karen M. Dabney, MFA, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre

Email: dabneykm@westminster.edu

Office: PH 312

Office Hours: MWF 1-2pm, TR 1:30pm-2:30pm

Office Phone: 724-946-6238

or by appointment

Subject to Change

Course Description

This course introduces students to the philosophy and practice 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. We begin with the concept of the liberal arts education. We 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 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

*Do not expect to be proficient at all these things at the end of the semester. This course is a beginning, a foundation for what we hope will be a lifetime of learning experiences.

Westminster Student Outcomes

- 1) To reason logically and evaluate critically
- 2) To communicate effectively
- 3) To think creatively, and appreciate aesthetic expressions
- 4) To demonstrate intellectual curiosity
- 5) To acquire knowledge of self, society, human culture, the natural world, and human relationships to God
- 6) To apply our knowledge to contemporary issues
- 7) To demonstrate moral and ethical commitments to neighbor, society, and the natural world
- 8) To demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning and the acquisition of skills for careers and responsible service as world citizens

Grading

Midterm Exam	75
3 Co-curricular Response Papers	120
Literacy Project (paper & homework)	125
Final Project (interviews & performance)	125
KIVA Project (presentation & debate)	75
Participation & Activities	480
(Personal Response Paper @ 40)	1000
(Summer Essay Response @ 40)	
(2 Movie Worksheets & 2 Quizzes @ 20 each)	
(8 in class activities @ 20 each)	
(2 Instructional video quizzes @ 20 each)	
(2 Instructor office visits @ 20 each)	
(Discussion & additional activities @ 80 total)	

Grading Scale

A: 930-1000	D+: 665-694
A-: 895-929	D: 630-664
B+: 865-894	D-: 595-629
B: 830-864	F: 0-594
B-: 795-829	
C+: 765-794	
C: 730-764	
C-: 695-729	

Required Texts

INQ 111 Fall 2018. Westminster College. Tapestry Press, 2017.

Brooks, Geraldine. People of the Book. New York: Penguin, 2008.

Course Requirements

Midterm Essay Exam (75 points)

There will be one exam given at the mid-point of the semester. It will cover homework readings, lectures, activities, and discussions.

3 Co-curricular Responses (40 points each for a total of 120 points)

You are required to attend three co-curricular events held on Westminster's campus and write personal responses about your experience as a spectator/student/citizen. These are written using the provided template on D2L and submitted in the appropriate dropbox before class on the assigned due date. First response **due M 10/15**, second **due M 11/12**, third **due F 11/30**. One must be an event linked with "People of the Book Week" (Nov. 5-9), one must be an event from arts & culture (music, fine art, theater), and one can be anything from the provided co-curricular event list on D2L.

Literacy Project (a total of 125 points)

There will be three weeks (**Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17**) where we'll be meeting in the library, learning research tools and tactics. This unit will culminate in a 3-4 page research paper (75 points) (not including work cited), with several homework assignments along the way (50 points), **due by Monday 8 AM** after the session it was assigned. More details on D2L.

Final Group Project (125 points)

Over the course of the semester, the class will learn about documentary theater techniques. Students will be charged with interviewing students, faculty, and staff about adversity faced on campus or in the community. These interviews will be the source material for individual performances during the Final. More to come.

KIVA Project (75 points total)

This activity will ask students to propose potential entrepreneurs to invest money in. Small groups will bring select their top 2 choices, give background on the region and the business proposed, as well as debate & defend their candidates. Ultimately the class will vote and rank choices, selecting who will receive and how much money will be donated from our limited class funds. More to come.

Participation & Activities (total of 480 points)

Over the course of the semester, there will be different activities offered in class and outside of class that will allow you to earn participation points. These include:

- *Personal Response Papers (40 points): a 2-3 page reflection on the semester.
- *Summer Essay Responses (40 points: 1-2 page response based on prompts provided in class in relation to your summer reading essay.
- *2 Movie Worksheets & 2 Quizzes (20 points each): to be completed in class
- *8 in class activities (20 points each): instructions provided later
- *2 Instructional videos (with quizzes) on Academic Integrity & Plagiarism (20 points each): info to come
- *2 Instructor Office Visits (20 points each): you must arrange to meet with the instructor for 10 minutes, either during posted office hours or an appointment made via email at least 24 hours in advance. The first visit must occur by **5pm Fri 8/31** and the next by **5pm Wed 10/24** (You are welcome to visit more often.)
- *Discussion participation and additional activities (80 points)

Attendance

You are allowed two absences (excused or unexcused) before your final grade will be affected. For every absence thereafter, your final grade will be reduced by 50 points. For every tardy, your final grade will be reduced by 25 points. If you are coming straight from another class and fear being tardy on a regular basis, please inform the instructor. **After 5 absences (or combination of tardies and absences equal to the**

point value outlined above), the instructor reserves the right to drop a student with an F. If a student has an excused absence it is the student's responsibility to schedule any and all makeup work within one week of returning to school if they wish to receive (possibly partial) credit for the assignment. The instructor reserves the right to reject late assignments; grade deductions will be assigned to any late work that the instructor decides to accept

Expectations: Beyond attendance, students are expected to have done the day's reading prior to class to ensure a lively discussion can be had. Cell phones are to be silenced and out of sight unless an activity calls for their use; phones may be taken until end of class if this is not guideline isn't followed. Students are also expected to do their own work. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade for the assignment, as well as notification of the dean. The course provides a place for multiple approaches to learning and understanding. It may lead to complex and challenging conversations about perspectives and identities found within and beyond our classroom. It is expected that everyone will be respectful of their peers and instructor, that open and honest conversation be possible.

Course Schedule

Subject to change based on the progression of course objectives

Keep checking D2L regularly for updates on assignments, reading material, etc.

Week 1 "Liberal Arts"	M Aug 27	Introductions, Syllabus review, D2L review
	W Aug 29	(p3-14) Westminster College Mission; Westminster Plan; Academic Integrity Policy; Liberal Learning
	F Aug 31	*Meet with Karen by 5pm
Week 2 "Learn by Doing"	M Sept 3	(p30-31, 37-42, 46-47) Angels on a Pin; Effective Learning; Moral Education
	W Sept 5	Movie #1: <i>Fires in the Mirror</i>
	F Sept 7	Movie #1: <i>Fires in the Mirror</i>
Week 3 "Ways of Knowing"	M Sept 10	Summer Essay Response due
	W Sept 12	(p48-54) Making College Relevant; Learning is Not Fun
	F Sept 14	(p114-118) Evolution as Fact and Theory
Week 4 "New Ways of Seeing"	M Sept 17	(p32, 33-36) Allegory of the Cave, Blind Man
	W Sept 19	(p95-97) Learning to See
	F Sept 21	*Field trip to Field Station*
Week 5 "Expressive Acts"	M Sept 24	(p86-94) My Forty Years
	W Sept 26	(p108) Strategies for Looking, *Art Gallery Activity*
	F Sept 28	(p78-85, 112-113) What to Listen for in Music; Words
Week 6 "Purpose"	M Oct 1	*Prep for Library Unit*
	W Oct 3	Library Day 1
	F Oct 5	Initial Interviews due , follow up to Library Day 1
Week 7 "Understanding"	M Oct 8	*Improvisational Acting*
	W Oct 10	Library Day 2
	F Oct 12	Follow up to Library Day 2
Week 8 "Integrate Ideas"	M Oct 15	Co-curricular Response #1 due
	W Oct 17	Library Day 3
	F Oct 19	Follow up to Library Day 3

Week 9 "We Shall Overcome"	M Oct 22	Midterm Essay Exam
	W Oct 24	*Meet with Karen*
	F Oct 26	(p154-164) Letters from Clergy/ Birmingham Jail
Week 10 "Scholarship Rules!"	M Oct 29	***NO CLASS**
	W Oct 31	*Faculty Scholarship Panels*
	F Nov 2	Library Research Paper due
Week 11 "People of the Book"	M Nov 5	(p261-272) From Sarajevo to Kosovo
	W Nov 7	(p280-290) Sacred Text
	F Nov 9	(p291-297) End of Forgery?
Week 12 "Microfinance & Consumerism"	M Nov 12	Co-curricular Response #2 due , (p188-194, 242-246) Banker to the Poor; Microfinance
	W Nov 14	(p127-130) Action Heroes
	F Nov 16	(p150-151) Don't Blame Walmart, (p131-136) Gospel of Consumption
Week 13 "Investing"	M Nov 19	KIVA presentations
	W Nov 21	*** NO CLASS***
	F Nov 23	*** NO CLASS***
Week 14 "Docu-theater"	M Nov 26	<i>Movie #2: The Laramie Project</i>
	W Nov 28	<i>Movie #2: The Laramie Project</i>
	F Nov 30	Co-curricular Response #3 due
Week 15 "The Final Stretch"	M Dec 3	*Work day for Final
	W Dec 5	*Work day for Final
	F Dec 7	Personal Response due , *Work day for Final
Week 16	W Dec 12	11:30 AM - 2:00 PM FINAL - Performance

Other important policies:

Submission Format Policy: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

Accessibility Statement: Westminster actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Support Services, in Thompson-Clark 414 (x7192, craigfa@westminster.edu). If you have a condition that qualifies you for reasonable accommodation under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), you must have ADA documentation on file with the Student Affairs Office to receive that accommodation.

Safe Zone Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

*****By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that you understand and accept all the professor's policies listed herein.**