Welcome to Inquiry. This course seeks to acquaint you with the expectations and resources of Westminster College and to enhance your abilities to think creatively and to communicate clearly. Throughout the semester, we will talk about the nature and purpose of a liberal arts education and have opportunities to approach problems from multiple perspectives.

Please read the greetings and introduction in the opening pages of the Inquiry Reader and be aware of the following additional information throughout the course.

**Course Texts:** You should have the following texts for this course:
- Inquiry Reader
- The Missing Semester

**Course Outcomes and Objectives:** Please see the introduction to the Inquiry Reader for the aspirations of all sections of Inquiry 211.

**Attendance:** You may only attend this class three times each week, so make the most of each appearance! See the Inquiry Reader for the broader College statement about attendance. If for some reason you must miss class, please know that you are allowed a total of 2 absences; each additional absence will lower your grade 10%. You should discuss all anticipated absences with me in advance.

**Academic Integrity:** The lasting reward of academic integrity is a good character and the ability to learn on your own. To learn more about the College’s views on this topic, please see Part IV of the Inquiry Reader and view the policy online. Note that failure to demonstrate academic integrity has serious consequences in the short term (grades) as well as for the rest of your life.

*Psst…I use TurnItIn.com*

**Professor Expectations:** As your professor, I have certain expectations for each of you throughout your time in my classroom. Though not overly restrictive or burdensome, these expectations can be considered high and I require that you adhere to these expectations throughout the semester:

- Please remove all earphones (both ears) until after class has finished.
- Please limit your personal conversations during class time. Excessive talking will not be tolerated and anyone continuing to talk after two warnings will be asked to leave. Only a request from the dean will allow re-admittance into the classroom.
Please read the assigned readings prior to the start of the discussion. Books are not optional and all lectures and assignments will come from the Inquiry Reader or other assigned reading.

- No hats.
- This course is about you and your future. It is about you learning all that you can in order to be a contributing member of society in your future roles as professionals.

**Cell phone usage:** If you need a laptop, tablet, or any other device for taking notes or otherwise participating in class, that's fine. However, please do not use a personal device for any purpose unrelated to our class. All devices should be silenced. Cell phones should be put away, except in the rare instance that I ask you to use them for an activity. I recommend that you power them down. If there is a serious need to leave your cell phone on, such as a family emergency, please put it on vibrate and let me know. If you leave the classroom to take a call, I’ll understand why. Please know that I routinely reduce professionalism grades for cell phone use unrelated to class.

I am a dad and I will have mine on and with me, but you will not hear it. I expect the same courtesy. If I see your phone out and in use, I will pause and watch you and wait for you to put it away the first time. The second time, I will ask you to leave and you will be counted absent.

If a peer tells me your actions on your laptop are distracting during a lecture, you will lose the privilege.

**Academic Success Center**

Wondering how to better tackle your reading assignments? Looking for new ways to prepare for your tests? Worried about keeping up in all of your classes? Afraid to ask for help? You're not the first Westminster College student to have these issues on your mind!

The Academic Success Center can help you with free academic support, including drop-in tutoring hours and individual tutoring for specific subjects, as well as individualized academic consultations to help you with goal setting, time management, note-taking, reading strategies and other skills that will help you reach your academic goals.

Located on the fourth floor of Thompson-Clark Hall, the center also offers rooms for individual or group studying on a first-come, first-serve basis until 10 p.m. every night.

For more information, visit [www.westminster.edu/academics/learning-center/index.cfm](http://www.westminster.edu/academics/learning-center/index.cfm) or contact Coordinator Jessica Shelenberger by visiting TC 412, by emailing shelenjp@westminster.edu or by calling (724) 946-6700.

**Assignments: General Information** On the following pages you will find a brief description of course assignments. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated in bold type on the weekly schedule. Unless prior arrangements have been made, late work will be penalized 50% for each day late (not class period...this means that after 1 day, you got a problem). Follow MLA guidelines when preparing your written documents (consult the writing handbook for instruction).

**Assignments:** Overview...College is not high school. Most of your college class work will be done outside of class, not in class. Anticipate an average of 2-3 hours' worth of work outside of class for every hour spent in class for this (and any) college course. You should expect 6-9 hours of outside work per week for this class. [Note: Therefore, students registered for 16 credit hours should expect 32-48 hours worth of work outside of class each week. In other words, college is a full-time job.]

The major common assignments (required of all Inquiry 211 students) are listed below.
1) A series of common readings in the Inquiry 211 text.
2) Attendance at three co-curricular events and subsequent write-up(s)
3) Ten pages (minimum) of written assignments
4) One graded oral report
5) A graded activity/exam during the final examination period

**Grading** Your final grade will be the result of the following activities/points. Standard +/- grading will be used. For example, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>TENTATIVE</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Co-Curricular Reports (3) @ 25 each</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>Career Center Week Interviews</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment: Teach-A-Class</td>
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<td>Exam #1 (Mid-term)</td>
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<td>Exam #2 (Final)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thought/Quote of the day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
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**Co-Curricular Papers (3 @ 25 pts.)** – You will attend 3 co-curricular events during the course of the semester (one in Sept., Oct., and Nov.) from a list of activities; if in doubt check with me to be sure the event you plan to attend qualifies as co-curricular. Seek *variety* in your choices. You will write a summary AND analysis of each of the 3 events. The summary should comprise 1/3 or less of your paper. For the summary you will need to do 2 things:
- Identify the event you attended
- Summarize/Describe the event in a few sentences. Provide a quote from the presenter or performer.

The remaining 2/3 of your paper should include:
- An analysis and reflection of the experience. I do not want a book report. I want your thoughts and opinions. Relate to how it applies to your own life.

*Co-Curriculars are to be typed, submitted as a Word document, and be 475-500 words each.*

**Thought/Quote of the Day** (2 @ 5 pts each) Each person will be responsible for bringing a “Thought for the Day” twice. Please write it on the board before class for all to enjoy. You will be prompted to discuss the relevance to your life. You may only offer 1 quote at a time. Please refer to sign-up sheet.
Participation (50 pts): Come to class having read and thought about the texts assigned for that day. Be ready (willing, even) to talk about your work during class discussion and to demonstrate your knowledge in writing when asked to do so. From time to time, you will be asked to give more formal presentations in class. These will be scheduled as we go along. Please note that the blanket project will be included in this component of your evaluation.

Quizzes (approx. 75 pts) On any given day, you may be asked to complete a quiz on the assigned material.

Exams (2 @ 50 pts each) The exams require you to synthesize your knowledge of assigned texts, class discussions, and related activities, using the skills we practice during the course. To perform well on exams, you need to prepare for each class period and to review materials extensively prior to each test.

Teach-A-Class (50 points) – more details to follow (RE: Topic List) Working with a partner, you will select a topic from a list and will make a 15 minute presentation to the class.

Career Center Week (15 points) – Resume (more to come…)

Library Assignment Week (20 points) – October 13-17th, more detail to come