

Introduction to a Liberal Arts Education
Inquiry 111S 4
Westminster College

Basic Information

Instructor: Doug Armstead

Office: 124 Hoyt (724) 946-7201

Office Hours: MWF 2-3pm. These are just the times I guarantee. I am available other times so feel free to drop by or to contact me for an appointment.

Email: armstedn@westminster.edu

Course website: www.westminster.edu/staff/armstedn/F11/Inquiry111.html.

Lecture meets: MWF 9:20-10:20am in Patterson 110.

Texts:

Inquiry Reader Fall 2011 Westminster College. Littleton, MA: Tapestry Press, 2011.

Johnson, Steven. *The Ghost Map*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2006.

Harris, Muriel, *Prentice Hall Reference Guide*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2011.

The Point of this Class

At the end of this semester, you will be prepared to:

- 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.
- Summarize, analyze, and evaluate different kinds of information.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, write and speak effectively, use appropriate technology, and perform library searches.

For further details please see the Introduction to the Inquiry Reader.

Expectations

Attendance:

Come to class having read the material and be ready to discuss the substance of what you read including your reaction to it. You cannot learn from your fellow students if you are not here, so it is your responsibility to make sure you are present (physically and mentally). If you forget to hold up your end of the deal, I will help to remind you by lowering your grade by 10% per absence after the first three. As a courtesy please let me know if you expect to be absent in advance of class.

Academic Integrity:

Central to the mindset at Westminster is learning through doing. If you don't do the work you cheat yourself. Failure to do your work (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, providing false information, etc.) is taken very seriously. For a complete specification of what constitutes a serious academic transgression and the consequences of making such a transgression please see your student hand book, or page 267 of the Inquiry Reader if that is more handy.

Accessibility:

We want you to succeed. If you find yourself experiencing a barrier to your learning please contact Mr. Corey Shaw, Director of Disability Resources, 209 Thompson-Clark (724) 946-7192, shawcj@westminster.edu.

Grades

As you start this class out I expect each of you to be receiving an A. Over the course of this semester your grade will be adjusted based on the degree of master and engagement that you have shown through your participation in discussions, scores on quizzes, writing of co-curricular reports, score the midterm, four papers that deal the the content of the course, and one presentation.

15%	Class participation/in class activities/Quizzes
15%	Co-Curricular Reports (3 @ 5% each)
20%	Midterm Exam
40%	Papers (4 @ 10% each)
10%	Presentation

Graded Elements

Assignments are due at the start of class, will be penalized 10% for each day they are late and should follow the MLA style guidelines.

Class participation: I and your class mates expect you to have prepared for class before you arrive. This includes carefully reading (take notes) assignments so that you are ready to discuss them in class. I also expect you to share your insights, questions, confusions with others. Just as important as vocal participation is listening to and weighing what they have to say. Quizzes will be administered on an as needed basis.

Co-Curriculars: You should attend **at least 1** co-curricular activity **each month** during the semester. In the week following the event, turn in a typed essay analyzing it and your experience of it. These should be two page papers.

Midterm Exam: You will need to meaningfully reflect on the texts, movies and discussions thereof we have considered and apply the skills we will have practiced in the course.

Papers: There will be 4 papers, the details of which I will provide in class before they are due.

Presentation: You will give an oral presentation based on your final paper.

The raw score above is turned into a grade as below:

Final %	Grade
90-100	A- to A
80-89	B- to B+
70-79	C- to C+ etc.

Class Schedule

All dates are tentative.

Final Exam from 3-5:30pm on Thursday, December 15, 2011