



WESTMINSTER
COLLEGE

Learning
Communities

Fall 2007

Dear Westminster Student and Family:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you. I have been teaching at Westminster College for more than ten years, and it is my pleasure to introduce you to one of our new initiatives for first year students.

As part of Westminster's commitment to develop new models of teaching and learning, an interdisciplinary learning community is now required of first-year students. These courses are designed to help freshmen adjust to college, develop critical thinking and analytical skills, writing and presentation skills, and establish strong relationships with other students and the faculty. Generally, these courses also fulfill either liberal education requirements and/or requirements for the major. Each learning community pairs at least two classes with the same group of students in each class. These classes are interdisciplinary, which means they link two traditionally different subject areas, and generally incorporate an active learning method. We have many different combinations of courses available. Let me give you an example of just one of our learning communities:

This semester I am teaching in a learning community that pairs my Introduction to Psychology course with an English Composition course. The professor for the English course and I have worked on a common theme and coordinated our syllabi. This week, both classes are writing an autobiography, combining elements of psychology with English composition. Opportunities for interdisciplinary and coordinated learning are magnified for both the students and the professors!

Enclosed you will find a list of the learning communities available for Fall 2007. When you register, please do not hesitate to ask questions about learning communities. If you have any questions, feel free to call me directly at (801) 832-2420 or visit our website at www.westminstercollege.edu/learning_communities.

Welcome to Westminster!

Barbara Schulz Smith, Ph.D.
Director of Learning Communities

Fall 2007

Learning Communities*

***This information is subject to change without notice.**

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Discovering Your True North: Building an Authentic Life

Introduction to Psychology
Jennifer Simonds
PSYC 105 06LC
M/W 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Leadership Development
Georgia White
MGMT 205 01LC
M/W 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education requirements:
Social Sciences II (4 credit hours)
Living Arts (2 credit hours)
Learning Community

What are the moments that help shape who we are, what we do, what we achieve, and what is possible? This course integrates fundamental principles of psychology and leadership to examine these moments in the context of theory in both fields. Students will examine leadership principles in a variety of settings including family, friends, campus, community service, wellness, and other places that matter in their lives.

Following the guidance of Bill George and Peter Sims in their book, *True North—Discover Your Authentic Leadership*, students will reflect on their “internal compass” and building an “integrated life”. An introductory text in Psychology will be complemented with *Pursuing Human Strengths—A Positive Psychology Guide* by Martin Bolt to enhance psychological understanding to maximize success across multiple areas of life. Through activities, experiential learning, and assessments in both classes, students will build a personal leadership portfolio.

Encountering Diversity, Countering Isms

Introduction to Philosophy
Bridget Newell
PHIL 100D 01 LC
T/TH 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Introduction to Psychology
Cathleen Power
PSYC 105 02 LC
T/TH 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education requirements:

Humanities III (4 credit hours)

Social Sciences II (4 credit hours)

Cultural Diversity

Learning Community

In this learning community you will be introduced to psychology and philosophy by exploring theoretical and practical approaches to understanding some of the “isms” that contemporary society grapples with: racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism. Throughout the semester we will (1) consider how each discipline approaches these issues, (2) strive to understand how the “isms” function as interrelated systems of privilege and oppression, and (3) work together to explore what individuals and groups can do to combat these isms and work towards establishing a more just and equitable society.

Learning goals of this learning community:

- o Understand concepts such as privilege, oppression, racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism
- o Become effective analytical and critical thinkers, and to communicate such thinking orally and in writing
- o Read and respond to primary texts in philosophy and psychology
- o Become familiar with the methodology and many of the major areas of study in psychology and with the methodology and goals of philosophical inquiry
- o Create connections between the topics covered in the course and your own life

Music and Words: The Art of Composition

Music Fundamentals

Christopher Quinn

MUSC 109 01LC

M/W 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Composition and Research

Helen Hodgson

ENGL 110 08LC

M/W 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education requirements:

Arts Survey (4 credit hours)

English Composition (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

These two classes integrate the critical skills of college writing and research with an in-depth exploration of music fundamentals. In music class, you will learn about rhythm and pitch, discuss music from various cultures, and experience the art of performance. The writing class will ask you to closely observe the everyday and to consider how your experiences connect to larger cultural practices and networks of meaning. Through integrated activities and assignments, both in and out of class, this learning community will help you appreciate the art of composition in music and words.

Wor(l)d Maps: Algebra and Writing

Composition and Research
Christopher LeCluyse
ENGL 110 07LC
M/W 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

College Algebra
Carolyn Connell
MATH 141 02LC
M/T/W/TH 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

English Composition (4 credit hours)

Mathematics (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

Central to a liberal arts education is describing, analyzing, and evaluating the world around us. Through our words and numbers, we put the pieces together to form a whole--it's no accident that algebra was originally Arabic for "the reunion of broken parts." In this learning community, you'll exercise both halves of your brain as we explore the connections between mathematics and writing. You will develop your ability to solve equations and represent space numerically as you analyze how others use language and write your own well-supported arguments. We will also place mathematical concepts in context by studying where they came from and examining the role that math and science play in our culture.

The Morality of Self-Interest

Introduction to Ethics
Michael Popich
PHIL 206 01LC
M/W 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Introduction to Economics
as a Social Science
John Watkins
ECON 105 01LC
M/W 8:00 – 9:50 a.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

Humanities (3 credit hours)

Social Sciences I (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

The fall of the Soviet empire and the subsequent globalization of the world economy suggest the triumph of capitalism. This course explores both the promise and failings of capitalism. The promise is the prospect of raising millions of people out of poverty; the failings lie in the aggravation of inequality, the homogenization of cultures, and environmental degradation. We begin by exploring economic, political, and philosophic ideas that laid the groundwork for the triumph of capitalism. We then focus on particular issues in the 20th and 21st century including the development of various theories of economic behavior, distributive justice, aid to under-developed countries and the moral, political and economic implications of globalization.

Doing Well and Doing Good: Financial and Community Well-Being

Transitioning to College
Gary Daynes and Julie Tille
INTR 100 03LC
T 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Personal Finance and
Investing
Lauren Lo Re
FINC 210 02LC
M/W 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

Living Arts (3 credit hr)

Learning Community

The skills that help you successfully manage your finances—discipline, patience, perspective, curiosity—are the same skills that can make you a successful student and community member. By participating in this learning community you will develop those skills and the knowledge necessary to become a wise manager of your finances. You will learn how those skills translate into practices that make you a strong student. And, you will discover how, by sharing those skills with the community through service, you can be a strong contributor to the community. This learning community is a good match for any student, but especially those interested in personal finance and/or community service.

Anatomy Matters

Human Anatomy and Lab

Sara Shaw

BIOL 103 02LC

T/TH 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Lab: W 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Introduction to Chemistry
and Lab

Allyson Christensen

CHEM 103 01LC

M/W 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

Physical Sciences (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

This learning community is specifically designed for students in the Pre-Nursing program. Students in this course will gain an understanding of the structures of the human body and the basic concepts of chemistry. Emphasis is placed on the interconnectedness of these two sciences. Microscopic and macroscopic anatomy is covered, including developmental and comparative aspects of the organ systems. The lab is integrated into the lecture for anatomy. Topics in chemistry include chemical classification, atomic structure, periodic trends, and chemical reactions. The chemistry lab is separate from the lecture and is not a formal part of the learning community. Proficiency in algebra is strongly recommended (MATH 105 or higher).

Wilderness, Suburbs, and Action

Composition and Research

Jeff McCarthy

ENGL 110 06LC

M/W 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Environmental Biology

TBA

BIOL 210 and 210L 01LC

T/TH 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Lab: F 9:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

English Composition (4 credit hours)

Life Sciences (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

These two classes combine the skills of college writing and research along with exciting exploration of the natural environment. Experience the outdoors of Utah and delve into the importance of giving attention to environmental issues. Journal your views and reflect upon what you have learned. Learn how to incorporate college classes together, bringing the skills of each into one. Get a good start on writing and research skills here at Westminster.

Leadership and the Art of Possibility

Leadership Development
Georgia White
MGMT 205 02LC
TH 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Transitioning to College
Diane Foster-Burke and
Ginny-Beth Joiner
INTR 100 01LC
TH 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:
Living Arts (2 credit hours)
Learning Community

How can you create a life of infinite possibility? What can you do to live up to your human potential? How can you be a contribution?

“Give Yourself an A” is a technique that opens possibilities. If you knew you would receive an “A” based upon your mastery of material, not how your performance compared with others, you would open yourself to a world of infinite possibilities. Apply this to your academic career and soar.

You're Smarter than You Think

Discovering Creativity/
Multiple Intelligences
Heidi Van Ert
EDUC 201 01LC
M/W 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

Transitioning to College
Tim Carr and Cullen Green
INTR 100 02LC
M/W 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:
Living Arts (2 credit hours)
Learning Community

Students in this community will explore their creativity and discover multiple personal strengths. This experience is designed to involve students in the process of discovering their own preferential styles and their creative selves. The focus will be four-fold: exploring a variety of theories of the creative process and how it is affected by individual intelligences; considering creative people and their lives; creating products that incorporate personal creativity using various specific intelligences; and examining topics that will help students to be successful in college and beyond! It is an opportunity to look at individual creativity and personal strengths in order to enhance learning and life.

The Write Flyers

Composition and Research

Gail Klofstad

ENGL 110 10LC

M/W 3:30 – 5:20 p.m.

Private Pilot Ground School

William Ogilvie

AVFL 100 01LC

M/W/F 5:30 – 7:20 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Private Pilot Ground School (4 credit hours)

Liberal Education Requirements:

English Composition (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

This Learning Community course is designed specifically for aviation students (both flight operations and aviation management majors).

This course not only prepares students to successfully pass the FAA Written Exam that is required for a Private Pilot's license, but the writing and research components are designed specifically to enhance the student's learning of aviation topics and aviation-related vocabulary. This course will completely immerse students in aviation topics and they will emerge as better pilots, writers, and researchers.

Writing and Culture: The Question of the Human

Composition and Research

Peter Goldman

ENGL 110 03LC

M/W 3:30 – 5:20 p.m.

Introduction to Anthropology

Gretchen Siegler

ANTH 160 02LC

M/W 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

English Composition (4 credit hours)

Social Sciences II (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

What defines the human species? What separates us from other animals? Do only humans have language and culture? The answer will depend on how we define language and culture. This learning community will address the question of the human through writing and reading assignments, and class discussions. Students will practice and develop their college writing skills while also learning the fundamentals of the four fields of anthropology, which include cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology, and archeology. The writing assignments will complement the anthropological material and vice-versa. This learning community will culminate in a research project on a topic of interest in anthropology.

In Our Own Words: Landscapes of the Self

English Composition

Leslie Robbins

ENGL 110 09LC

T/TH 12:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Introduction to Psychology

Barb Smith

PSYC 105 01LC

T/TH 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

English Composition (4 credit hours)

Social Sciences II (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

How do you define your self and voice, both verbally and through writing, in the college community? What traits define personality and where do they come from?

Our act of self-discovery will thread psychology, writing and daily college life together. The writing process will help us establish an authentic voice, while we explore the tools of psychology and our daily actions to investigate why we behave as we do. So much of contemporary theory teaches us about the establishment of identity and the process of achieving a strong sense of self. We want to attempt to discover landscapes of identity through writing, through conversation about diversity, social and personal patterns, movement, and behavior.

Other components of the Learning Community include:

- o Service learning
- o Writing workshops
- o Library research instruction
- o Campus Exploration
- o Community building activities

Show Me the Money! Using Modeling and Statistics to Get Rich

Elementary Statistics

Liz Herrick

MATH 150 02LC

M/W 5:30 – 7:20 p.m.

Principles of Information

Resource Management

Alysse Morton

IRM 200 01LC

M/W 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.

CREDIT EARNED:

Liberal Education Requirements:

Mathematics (4 credit hours)

Learning Community

As a future business leader, you must be able to make solid decisions. However, many times decision making is challenging due to uncertainties. Utilizing statistics, such as hypothesis testing and probability distributions, you can create models to help make better decisions. In this learning community you will learn the basics of statistics and model building, leading you and your company to successful outcomes.

Spring 2008

Check with your advisor about Learning Community options in Spring 2008, including:

Through the Looking Glass: Creativity and Culture

Cultural Anthropology
Gretchen Siegler

Experiencing the Arts
Nina Vought and
Doug Wright

Alive with Chemistry!

Human Physiology and Lab
Sara Shaw

Organic and Biochemistry
Allyson Christensen

Data Modeling and Analysis

Information Resource
Management
Jerry Van Os and
Chris Tong

Business Quantitative
Methods
Chris Tong

The Wild Side: Wild Story, Wild History

United States History
Jeff Nichols

Introduction to Literature
Jeff McCarthy



WESTMINSTER

C O L L E G E

Our Vision

We will be nationally recognized as an exemplary community of learners, distinguished by our distinctive educational programs, our record of preparing graduates for success in a rapidly changing world, and our commitment to continuous improvement, effectiveness, and value.

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