

«first_name» «last_name»
«addr_line_1»
«addr_line_2»
«city» «state» «zip»

Dear «preferred_name»,

Congratulations! Now that you have been accepted to Westminster College, we are excited to begin the Early Registration Process. Below are the first steps necessary for you to complete in order to become an official college student on our campus!

- STEP 1: Tuition Deposit –
 - You must pay your tuition deposit of \$200 (if you haven't already done this). This can be done online at www.westminster-mo.edu/go/deposit by credit card, or you can mail in a check or credit card information to our Enrollment Services Office. Please mark your preference on the top part of the enclosed green colored form under Step 1.
- STEP 2: Early Registration Program
 - Please complete the bottom section of the enclosed green colored form under Step 2 and let us know which date will be most convenient for you to come to campus and meet with an academic advisor. If traveling to campus presents a problem – please call and let us know.
- STEP 3: Choose Your Seminar Preference
 - You should review the enclosed Seminar Course Descriptions and select your top 5 Seminar choices. Please mark these selections on the backside of the enclosed green colored form under Step 3. Providing this information will enable your enrollment in a Westminster Seminar section. (see enclosed course descriptions)
- STEP 4: WC Connections Online Component –
Your tuition deposit must be received BEFORE you can access this online step:
 - PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED SHEET-This on-line tool will enable you to:
 - 1) Complete your language placement testing so we may determine the best beginning foreign language course for you.

We are looking forward to having you join us at Westminster. We know that these early steps will enable your smooth transition to Westminster next fall! If you have any questions throughout this process, please do not hesitate to call our Enrollment Services office at 800-475-3361 - we will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



David K. Jones, Ph.D.
Director, Westminster Seminar,
Professor of Psychology
David.Jones@westminster-mo.edu

ATTENTION - Please RETURN THIS FORM ONLY in the enclosed envelope – Thank You!



STEP 1: Tuition Deposit

Please fill in the information below and return as soon as possible :

Please print legibly – Update any information if necessary

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

-
- I've completed this process online at www.westminster-mo.edu/go/deposit on this date _____.
 - Enclosed is my \$200 tuition deposit check made payable to Westminster College.
 - Please bill my MasterCard/Visa/Discover/Amex (*please circle card type*) for the \$200 tuition deposit.
Name shown on card _____
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
CVC code on the back of the card: _____
 - I've already paid my \$200 tuition deposit.

STEP 2: Early Registration Program

I plan to attend the Early Registration on (circle preference)

Early Registration

Dates

April 28 (Saturday) ___ I will be attending 8:30am-4pm April 20 (Friday)

May 18 (Friday) ___ I will be attending 8:30am-4pm May 11 (Friday)

June 15 (Friday) ___ I will be attending 8:30am-4pm June 8 (Friday)

Deadline to Pay Tuition Deposit, Return Form & Complete Online Component

If you have any questions about this information,
please contact the Office of Enrollment Services at 1-800-888-WCMO(9266)

OVER - Please complete both sides of this form! - OVER



STEP 3: Choose Your Seminar Preference

Please mark the 5 seminar courses that interest you the most.
Descriptions for each seminar section are included in this packet.

***NOTE:** of the 19 Seminar Sections listed below –
4 are Living, Learning Community Seminars (LLC), 2 are Living Community Seminars (LC), and 13 are stand alone Seminar classes.
See attached for complete description of an LLC.

***NOTE:** LLC Seminar Sections; Students selecting one of these 4 courses will live together in freshmen housing AND will take a linked course together: These 4 courses ARE linked with another class – please ensure you have NOT had one of these linked classes for AP/Dual Credit, before marking them on your form.

_____ ***WSM 101A (LLC): On the Trail of Human Disease; from AIDS to Bioterrorism**

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take BIO 124 (Biodiversity).

_____ *** WSM 101B (LLC): Does Reality Television Really Represent “Reality”?**

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take PSY 113 (Psychology as a Social Science)

_____ ***WSM 101C (LLC): The Modern Olympics – Athens to London (Redux)**

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take INT 201 (Intro to International Studies).

_____ ***WSM 101D (LLC): Spaceship Earth: A Voyage into Sustainability**

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take ENV 105 (Intro to Environmental Sciences).

.....
NOTE: LC Seminar Sections: Students in these 2 courses will live together in freshmen housing but will not take a linked course:

_____ *** WSM 101E (LC): The History of Carnival**

_____ *** WSM 101F (LC): Understanding The Human Animal**
.....

***NOTE:** These Seminar Sections ARE NOT LLC or LC classes. They are stand alone Seminars.

_____ **WSM 101G: Searching for Happiness**

_____ **WSM 101H: Walking in Their Shoes: Understanding the Trials Facing our Communities**

_____ **WSM 101I: Long Story Short: The Analysis and Craft of Short Fiction**

_____ **WSM 101J: Hispanic Cities on Film**

_____ **WSM 101K: Making Interpersonal Connections**

_____ **WSM 101L: “What happens in Vegas...”**

_____ **WSM 101M: Breaking the Chains of Thought: Philosophy Through Fiction and Film**

_____ **WSM 101N: Changing the World: Working and Organizing for Social Change**

_____ **WSM 101O: Penning for Pennies: Grantmaking 101**

_____ **WSM 101P: Innumeracy in Our Everyday Lives**

_____ **WSM 101Q: Math and Sports**

_____ **WSM 101R: Nick and Nora’s [and Steven’s and Charlotte’s and Jeff’s] Infinitely Revealing Playlist**

_____ **WSM 101S: The American Reporter**

All preferences will be considered, however, it is possible that you may not receive one of the sections you have indicated.
All of the seminars are designed to teach the same set of academic skills.



STEP 3: The Westminster Seminar Program

All Westminster Seminar classes provide a challenging intellectual experience built around the common theme of transformation. By carefully and deliberately introducing students to the basic intellectual skills they will need to succeed in college and by the use of active learning strategies, the Seminar experience helps entering students practice a variety of skills necessary for college and life long learning as liberally educated people. Among these skills are close reading, listening, speaking and critical thinking.

All freshmen are assigned to a Seminar course based upon interest. The following course descriptions are for your information in identifying topics you are interested in for your seminar experience. Please indicate ***which 5 you prefer*** on the enclosed preference sheet. You will be placed in one of those sections, if at all possible. Seminar section placement is determined by a number of factors, and your choices are given serious consideration. However, as registration progresses into late spring and early summer, there is a possibility that seminar sections will close and we will not be able to place you in one of your preferred sections. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY for the best chance at being placed in one of your preferred seminar choices. Additionally, some seminar sections will be linked to another class and/or housing to form “learning communities”.

Living, Learning Community Seminars (LLC): As you read through the various seminar descriptions, you will notice that the first 4 seminars have a LLC designation. This means that if you sign up for one of these seminars and are chosen, you will become a member of an academic and social support community. ***All members of the same LLC seminar will share a suite and residence hall assignment and these seminars are also linked to an academic class.*** The linked class is listed with the seminar course description. *Please check to make sure that the linked class is NOT one that you’ve already taken for Dual Credit or AP Credit.*

This is a great opportunity to participate in a new and innovative approach to freshman college transition. Westminster has initiated the living, learning community concept as a result of extensive research that supports the benefits of such arrangements on a variety of academic and social issues that freshman students often face. Roommate assignments will be based upon seminar enrollment and preferences as expressed on the roommate-matching questionnaire. ***If you chose a LLC seminar, you will not be able to choose your residence hall roommate unless they are in the same seminar class.***

This is an exciting time and many new experiences, challenges and opportunities await you at Westminster. Please read over the following course descriptions carefully and ***choose those that interest you the most. It is important that you have an interest in the subject of the seminar*** and that you want to develop and deepen your knowledge and understanding of the topic.

Welcome!

Dr. David K. Jones.
Westminster Seminar Director
Westminster College
501 Westminster Ave
Fulton, MO 65251
David.Jones@westminster-mo.edu

Descriptions for Fall 2012

4 Living-Learning Community Seminars

**** WSM101A: *On the Trail of Human Disease; from AIDS to Bioterrorism (LLC)***

It seems like every day when you pick up a paper there is a new disease threat on the front page. It could be some new disease such as AIDS, Ebola, swine flu, or even mad cow disease. Sometimes it is a disease such as TB that we thought we had controlled, but is making a comeback. Maybe it is *listeria* contamination of cantaloupes or *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination of lettuce. Sometimes it is even worries about what MIGHT happen if a terrorist 'weaponizes' some disease you haven't even heard of. In this course we will explore some of the biology and history behind human diseases and then look at some of the diseases that are making headlines today. In addition to exploring the biology of these topics, we will consider political, economic, legal, and other societal issues.

Faculty: Jeff Mayne

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take BIO 124 (Biodiversity).

**** WSM 101B: *Does Reality Television Really Represent "Reality"?* (LLC)**

This seminar will delve into the world of reality television. Perplexing? Intriguing? Addictive? Fun? ... Realistic? Through the course of the semester you will get to know, on a first-name basis, the reasons that these shows have influenced the psyche of the American public. Teenagers and young adults, especially, have been a target of the marketing agents and television studios behind these shows. How influential has this media form been in shaping the minds of young people today? These and other issues relative to current television media will be explored in the course, leading up to an answer to the one overarching question: Do we passively "take" what the media "puts out" or, in the alternative, are we actively involved in disseminating what we're "fed"?

Faculty: Sue Serota

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take PSY 113 (Psychology as a Social Science)

**** WSM 101C: *The Modern Olympics – Athens to London (Redux)* (LLC)**

As the XXX Olympiad, hosted by London, England, approaches the excitement and anticipation grows. During late July and early August millions of people across the globe will tune into their televisions to cheer for the athletes of their home country or their favorite sport. Although many enjoy watching this quadrennial, exciting global sporting event, do they wonder how it came to be? This seminar will explore the origins of the modern Olympic games and its transformation over the last century. Specific emphasis will be given to understanding the organizational structure of the International Olympic Committee and how their policies and decisions have impacted the games and reflect global issues of the times.

Faculty: Karen Tompson-Wolfe

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take INT 201 (Intro to International Studies)

**** WSM 101D: *Spaceship Earth: A Voyage into Sustainability* (LLC)**

What does it mean to live sustainably? How can we use our natural resources to support current systems while at the same time not compromise the ability of future generations to also enjoy a secure existence? "Sustainability" increasingly informs and frames the work of not only natural scientists, but also world leaders, business leaders, economic policy holders, social justice activists, architects, regional and urban planners, farmers and community leaders. In this class we'll explore ideas and issues related to environmental sustainability from a number of disciplinary perspectives. Using a series of essays to guide our discussions, we'll consider a variety of themes including: agriculture and food production; climate change; energy production and peak oil; consumerism and pollution; and the loss of biodiversity. We'll also look to nature for solutions by exploring the science of biomimicry. Can the workings of the natural world provide guidance for our survival on Spaceship Earth? What does the prairie have to tell us about sustainable food production? What can photosynthesis tell us about how to harness solar energy? Our mission on this voyage of Spaceship Earth: explore sustainability issues from a variety of viewpoints while looking to nature for potential solutions.

Faculty: Irene Unger

LLC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing AND take ENV 105 (Intro to Environmental Sciences)

2 Living Community Seminars

*** WSM 101E: *The History of Carnival* (LC)**

Every year hundreds and thousands of people head to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. Popular images of Mardi Gras often depict spectators with dozens of beads around their necks, a beer in one hand, and a camera in another hoping to catch some women ready to expose themselves to the crowd. As tourists are lured to the street festivities, New Orleans natives celebrate Carnival with elaborate balls. To many, Mardi Gras is just one giant party for all to enjoy. Yet people fail to recognize the historical origins, meanings, and many dynamics behind Mardi Gras and its worldly counterpart Carnival. This course will examine the history of the celebration of Carnival throughout the world. We will examine the historical origins and evolution of the annual festival in famous locations such as Rio and New Orleans, while also exploring more obscure festivals held in Bulgaria and Ireland. Moreover, this course will allow us to study how one widely celebrated festival plays a vital role in a regions' ethnic, religious, sexual, and racial landscape.

Faculty: Cinnamon Brown

LC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing but will not take a linked course.

***WSM 101F: Understanding The Human Animal (LC)**

In this course we will explore the human animal on a genetic, organismal and social level. We all know that we are like our parents because we share their DNA, but are we really just a product of our genes or is there more to the story? Are we a product of where we live? We are continuously exposed to environmental chemicals in the food we eat, water we drink, and air that we breathe. We are also exposed to stressful situations; just the thought of an exam can make your heart race and palms sweat. How does this myriad of external circumstances affect our biology? How can these circumstances affect our societies? Come explore these questions and others as we survey some essays on our lives as animals and investigate the stressful environments in which we live.

Faculty: Dawn Holliday

LC Section: Students in this section will live together in freshmen housing but will not take a linked course.

Descriptions for Fall 2012 - 13 Stand Alone Seminars

WSM 101G: Searching for Happiness

Are you happy? What is happiness? Does it have anything at all to do with our surroundings, economic situation, actual vocation or pursuit of that job, our culture or the others around us? Where are the happiest civilizations? What jobs or life paths bring highest degrees of personal satisfaction? In this class we will investigate different definitions of happiness, and explore some of the findings of positive psychology. By developing more understanding of personal goal setting, action and reflection, the members of this seminar might just be further down the road to happiness by semester's end!

Faculty: Linda Aulgur

WSM 101H: Walking in Their Shoes: Understanding the Trials Facing our Communities

An English proverb suggests you must walk a mile in a man's shoes before you can criticize him. In this course, we will try to "walk the mile" in an attempt, not to criticize, but to better grasp how we can help our communities deal with issues such as poverty, hunger, homelessness, education, and medical care. We will explore literature that delves into the issues facing members of our communities and explore ways that we can work toward change in these areas. You will choose one of these issues of social concern that especially appeals to you, and offer your assistance to the community throughout the semester.

Faculty: Elise Bartley

WSM 101I: Long Story Short: The Analysis and Craft of Short Fiction

Within the history of literature, the genre of short stories is relatively new. Literary critics maintain that short story writers have and continue to write in response to social, cultural and political issues of their eras, while addressing established literary methods and reflecting personal experiences. How have short stories changed over the last 200+ years to reflect and/or critique various cultures, eras and literary techniques? What's new in the genre today? In this course we'll examine a variety of short stories from several literary periods. We'll critique the stories and will also try our hands at imitating some of the writing techniques. No fiction writing experience is necessary with this course; the only requirement is a desire to explore the genre of short stories from many perspectives.

Faculty: Deb Brenegan

WSM 101J: Hispanic Cities on Film

In this class we will look at several cities in the Spanish-speaking world as places of community, art, and conflict. Our entry into the urban environment will be through film, a medium that uniquely captures the interplay between architecture, society, and the forces of political and economic history that shape and form communities. Moreover, the directors pose interesting questions that have direct comparisons to the United States; for example, how can graffiti be political statement? How do shopping malls both bring different groups together, yet also maintain class and racial divisions? We will use economic, social, and literary theory to tease apart how film directors present their cities as places manufactured sometimes to include citizens, sometimes to exclude them.

Faculty: Susan Divine

WSM 101K: Making Interpersonal Connections

With so much of our communication taking place superficially over text messaging, Twitter, email, voice mail and computer chat groups, many people have abandoned the development of good interpersonal skills for enhanced cyber communication. Making Interpersonal Connections can help to improve face-to-face communication skills by studying and applying theories of good listening, defensiveness reduction, conflict-resolution, and assertive behaviors. Students will 1) learn definitions and applications of various interpersonal communication theories, 2) research, examine, and present about gender issues that affect their own interpersonal communication, and 3) delve into areas such as love, friendship, family, and work relationships..

Faculty: Keith Hardeman

WSM 101L: "What happens in Vegas..."

Las Vegas is known the world over as a city in which we can indulge our fantasies without fear of arrest or the judgmental gaze of our neighbors. In this course, we will examine the history and sociology of the city, from its early days as a railroad town, to its association with organized crime, to more recent decades in which mega casinos have come to define the contours of the Strip. We will also address a variety of questions raised by the practices associated with the city. For example, why is behavior that is accepted inside of the city considered deviant in the rest of the country (i.e. something that must "stay in Vegas")? And, more broadly, what can the city teach us about issues such as the commercialization of sex and gender, ethnicity, class, and addiction, not to mention ecology (giant fountains in the desert?) and the very notion of tourism.

Faculty: Lisa Fein

Descriptions for Fall 2012 - 13 Stand Alone Seminars (con't)

WSM 101M: Breaking the Chains of Thought: Philosophy Through Fiction and Film

Philosophy involves the quest for answers to fundamental questions. This seminar will explore fundamental philosophical questions about human nature and identity, knowledge of the world and our selves, and how we should live our lives. In addition to philosophical essays we will use selections of films such as *The Matrix*, *Dirty Pictures*, *Black Robe*, and *Memento*, and stories such as *Imposter* by Philip Dick, *They* by Robert Heinlein, *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* by LeGuin, and Huxley's *Brave New World* in order to investigate the philosophical questions at issue.

Faculty: Rich Geenen

WSM 101N: Changing the World: Working and Organizing for Social Change

The Civil Rights Movement; the Central American Peace Movement; The Women's Movement; The Living Wage Movement: our history is full of incredible people who have done amazing things to change the world for the better. What did these people have in common? How did they seek social change? What were their methods and strategies? How can *you* make a difference in your world? In this course we will study movements for social change throughout history as well as the dynamic individuals who led them. By engaging the work and words of figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero and others, we'll study how individuals and groups have worked for social justice in the past and what you can do to change the world for the better today. We'll focus both on historical movements as well as student

Faculty: Jamie Haskins

WSM 101O: Penning for Pennies: Grantmaking 101

Interested in learning a marketable skill, while serving others? We will engage in extensive fieldwork to investigate, identify and assess the needs of incarcerated youth, battered women and children, and the hungry and homeless in the local community and the organizations designed to address these needs. We will also research foundation and corporate grantmakers that provide relevant funding support. Finally, we will progress through all aspects of the grantseeking process—from making initial contact with potential grantmakers through delivering full proposals for funding. Together, we will embrace Westminster's mission and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Faculty: Tirza Kroeker

WSM 101P: Innumeracy in Our Everyday Lives

Everyday we use logic to make decisions, which makes us all mathematicians in some sense. Unfortunately many people suffer from innumeracy, not able to understand basic mathematical ideas involving numbers and logic. In addition, we often trust that the numbers are saying much more than they really are. The media, politicians, advertisers, corporations, financial institutions all rely on this innumeracy to mislead, misrepresent, and lie to us. In this course, we will explore different examples of math abuses we encounter in many areas of life including the media, advertising, gambling, the stock market, polling, elections, and the health industry. We will see how data and statistics can be used to back up any opinion you want and how randomness rules our lives. An important part of the course is to learn how to ask the right questions when confronted with numbers and recognize when we

Faculty: Erin Mullen

WSM 101Q: Math and Sports

Have you ever wondered: Why college football team rankings are so complicated? Of all the baseball statistics which one most closely determines the winner of a game? Is it really that hard to schedule a tournament? Should I draft Aaron Rogers or Adrian Petersen in my fantasy football league? Does Kobe Bryant really shoot better in the clutch? Can my statistics class really help me predict the winners of NCAA basketball tournament games? Is there a fairer way to break a tie in an NFL game? We will use analytical thinking and statistics to dig deeper into these and other sports related questions. We will also participate in a fantasy football league.

Faculty: Ryan Mullen

WSM 101R: Nick and Nora's [and Steven's and Charlotte's and Jeff's] Infinitely Revealing Playlist

What music was playing at the party when you finally got up the nerve to talk to that girl from Chemistry class? When you hear that one Killers song, are you transported back to the fall of 2008? Music has a remarkable tie to memory—we hear a particular song and we're right back at that party, or on that highway, or with that person. Music, too, has the capacity to *embody* what words can't—we play someone a song to show him how we really feel, or we find an album that is just *right* for the kind of day we're having. We'll explore music's inherently representative quality by studying essayists, poets, storytellers, and film directors using music to "get at" their experiences and purposes. We'll write our own essays, stories, and poems about particular songs, ultimately creating a "playlist" of our lives, and of our first semester at Westminster.

Faculty: Anne-Marie Thompson

WSM 101S: The American Reporter

What does it take to be an American reporter? From Benjamin Franklin to Katie Couric, the people who have gathered, written and put out the news in America have shaped our thinking and influenced our history. In the most traditional sense, reporters seek truth and report it. But they are sometimes seen as intrusive, antagonist, and even excessive in the way they carry out that task. Do we even need them, especially in this day of Twitter and citizen journalism? This seminar will explore the role of the American reporter from the earliest days of our nation to the present. We will try to determine what makes good journalists and whether they are indispensable watch guards of our freedom.

Faculty: Maureen Tuthill



STEP 4: MyWC ONLINE COMPONENT

As a new student to Westminster College, you must complete a foreign language placement exam prior to attending the on-campus Early Registration session. In order to complete the online component and testing, use our “MyWC” program located at <http://mywc.westminster-mo.edu>, as shown below.

To log into MyWC, use your username and password that will be mailed to you after you complete STEP 1 & pay your deposit (if you haven't already done so).

When you are logged into MyWC look for the New Student tab as shown here.

The Foreign Language Placement Exam information is located on this tab. **The Language Placement Exam is required to be completed prior to attending the Early Registration Event.**

Note: You can also log into MyWC at anytime to get Announcements or Advisor Schedule Appointments regarding the Early Registration event, and also remember to check your Westminster College email regularly for announcements.

If you have any questions or problems with MyWC contact the Information Technology Helpdesk at help@westminster-mo.edu or (573)592-5169.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!