

## **What makes an appropriate Common Inquiries course?**

In addition to the usual standards of quality for a Westmont course, G.E. courses should exhibit the following two characteristics.

1. The course recognizes and allows for non-experts in the audience.
  - a. The course does not have prerequisites beyond what would be common among entering students.
  - b. The course offers a broad view of the subject material historically, philosophically or topically.
  - c. On occasion, more narrowly focused or advanced courses with prerequisites may be acceptable for majors if the department offers alternative courses for non-experts.
  
2. The course recognizes the distinctive nature of a course within the G.E. curriculum.
  - a. A course offered to fulfill a Common Inquiries category should take explicit notice of and make explicit comparison to other modes of inquiry.
  - b. A course in the Common Contexts section should take explicit notice of the historical and philosophical underpinnings of the Christian Liberal Arts tradition.
  - c. Among other ways a course might recognize its distinctive place in the G.E. curriculum are:
    - i. The course offers the opportunity to satisfy one or more of the G.E. skills requirements.
    - ii. The course self-consciously contributes to one or more of the Westmont College educational standards.
    - iii. The course highlights alternative cultural perspectives.
    - iv. The course provides an opportunity or context for service learning.