

## INQ Required Items for Syllabus

### Description:

The purpose of the Inquiry Seminar is to introduce you to the world of scholarship through an intensive, collaborative investigation of a specific, innovative topic. In this course you will be asked to engage difficult questions and complicated issues using multiple approaches, and will learn to think critically by addressing important problems, questions, theories and concepts. You will also seek insight through scholarly inquiry and careful examination of a variety of opinions, assumptions, and convictions. Finally, you will learn how to gather, explore, and evaluate information in order to produce clear, reasoned arguments and ideas. In short, you will develop skills and intellectual capacities that will serve you well throughout your entire life.

**Critical Inquiry: In the context of this course, critical inquiry involves gathering, exploring, and evaluating information, ideas, and assumptions in order to produce clear and reasoned analysis, understanding, and wisdom.**

As with all courses at this college, we are actively engaged in supporting the mission of the college and upholding the five **Goals for Liberal Learning**.

- Instill a love for learning
- Develop foundational skills and transferable intellectual capacities
- Develop an understanding of disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and intercultural perspectives, and their connections
- Cultivate an examined cultural, ethical, physical, and spiritual self-understanding
- Encourage responsible participation in the world

Though not all of these goals can be met in every class, your education at Concordia should help you achieve these goals across your career here. For the purposes of the Inquiry Seminar, while we may touch on each goal, our focus will be on the first two goals. To that end the faculty have developed the following overarching goal and general objectives for the Inquiry Seminars.

**Purpose and Primary Goal:** Inquiry Seminars shall provide an entree into the life of scholarship. Their primary purpose is to develop and hone foundational skills and transferable intellectual capacities which, when practiced, can develop a love of learning.

**Common Objectives:** Reflecting the Goals for Liberal Learning (especially the first two) and aspects of critical thinking appropriate to the course, these objectives aim to enable you to:

- Read, observe, and listen carefully.
- Write and speak effectively and persuasively,
- Construct, test and articulate sound arguments,
  - analyze and evaluate arguments effectively,
  - organize ideas clearly,
  - and develop ideas thoroughly.

- Apply an effective, efficient, and ethical research methodology,
  - locate appropriate research materials,
  - evaluate information and its sources critically,
  - and use information and sources ethically.
- Submit beliefs, convictions, and perspectives (including your own) to challenge,
  - examine the conditions, assumptions, and values that shape one's identity,
  - acknowledge your own limited knowledge and personal bias,
  - take chances that challenge your intellectual and creative abilities,
  - recognize ambiguity and understand its role in decision making.
- Understand the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of the course topic.