

Great Books

The Great Book Program is an interdisciplinary liberal arts program designed to provide students with the opportunity to read some of the essential literature of human existence through the reading and discussion of original works by men and women from across the ages. All courses are team-taught by a minimum of two professors in interdisciplinary education. All disciplines planning on completing the Major or Honors program in Great Books are eligible to complete the second Major.

Honours

An Honors Bachelor of Arts in Great Books requires 54 credit hours, including GRID 2006, one of 2106 or 2206, four of 3106, 3306, 3406, 3506 or 3606, 3903, 4903, 4906, 4913; and an additional 3 credit-hour course in the 3000/4000 level in any other discipline. Students in the Honors degree in Great Books should refer to the Great Book Seeking Committee for the beginning of their studies. Students should indicate when applying for the Honors BA in Great Books which course they would like to complete. Students are also strongly encouraged to take 6 credit hours of a language, a language that will be connected to their studies. Students may take GRID 3903 in the second half of their studies. Application forms are available from the Director of Great Books. Entrance to the Great Book Honors Program requires a 3.7 GPA in Great Books courses and a 3.3 GPA in all other courses.

Major

To complete the Great Book Major, students are eligible to complete the following thematic courses:

Second-year: 12 credit hours (GRID 2006 and one of the 2000 level courses)

Third-year: 12 credit hours in the level Great Books courses (GRID 3106, 3306, 3406, 3506, 3606)

Fourth-year: 12 credit hours in the level Great Books courses (GRID 3106, 3306, 3406, 3506, 3606)

Great Books Courses Cross-listed in Other Departments

GRID 2006 Queer for the Good Life (cross-listed in Political Science (3 credit hours))

GRID 3106 Love and Friendship (cross-listed in both English and Philosophy)

GRID 3306 Justice (cross-listed in Political Science (3 credit hours))

GRID 3506 Freedom (cross-listed in Political Science (3 credit hours)) and in ENGL 3903

Note:

GRID 2206 Human Nature and Technology (co-taught with the Good Citizenship)

GRID 3406 Philosophy and Art (co-taught with the Good Deeds)

GRID-1006. Introduction to Great Books

This course opens a world of ideas and a new way of thinking about the world. It is a course that will challenge you to think about the world in a new way. The course will include the study of the good life, freedom, justice, friendship, and the state. The course will be required for the Major and will count toward the Major.

GRID-2006. The Quest for the Good Life (HMRT 2206)

This course is designed to explore the perennial issue of the Quest for the Good Life through the study of some of the great works in a series of disciplines. The course will include ancient and modern, all elected because they speak to and illuminate the human condition. Texts will include Plato's *Republic*, Malraux's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and Austen's *Emma*. This course is a required course for the Great Books Major and will count toward the Major.

GRID-2106. The Quest for the Good Life II

Building on the theme developed in GRID 2006, this course is designed to explore the perennial issue of the Quest for the Good Life through the study of some of the great works in a series of disciplines. The course will include ancient and modern, all elected because they speak to and illuminate the human condition. Texts will include Plato's *Home*, Danon's *Divine Comedy*, Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and Woolf's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006, or permission of the instructor.

GRID-2206. Human Nature and Technology (HMRT 2216)

This course will deal with the ancient and modern conceptions of the human nature. This course will be a continuation of the human nature and the human condition. The course will include the study of the human condition and the human nature. Texts will include Plato's *Prometheus Bound*, Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, Grant's *Technology and Empire*, Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, Heidegger's *The Question Concerning Technology*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Gaskell's *North and South*, Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, and Selig's *Holy Fire*.

GRID-2306. War and Peace

This course will explore the causes and consequences of conflict through a close reading of literature, history, and political theory. The course will examine the political and social conditions that lead to war, the human condition, and the human nature. Texts will include Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Shakespeare's *Henry V*, Austen's *Violence*, and Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*.

GRID-3106. Love and Friendship

This course will explore the human condition through the study of love and friendship. Each theme will be examined in a historical and a contemporary context. Ancient and modern texts will be used to examine the human condition and the human nature. Texts will include Plato's *Symposium*, Seneca's *The Faerie Queene*, Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Rochester's *Confessions*, Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, LeGarde's *Left Hand of Darkness*, Woolf's *Orlando*, and Bellow's *Ravelstein*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006, or permission of the instructor.

GRID-3206. Nations and Borders

This course will explore the historical, geographical, and cultural categories of nations and hemispheres and how they have been defined historically. It will define hemispheres as belonging to, different from, or in conflict with national, cultural, or religious spheres. Students will explore hemispheres in national, colonial, ethnic, racial, and global categories. Texts include *Exodus*, Shakespeare's *Othello*, Behn's *Oroonoko*, Kant's *Perpetual Peace*, Sen's *Harlem Duet*, and Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*.

GRID-3306. Justice (HMRT 3206) (POLS)

This course will explore the nature of human community and the evolution of justice. Themes to be addressed will include an individual's responsibility to others, the role of community in forming human nature, the manner in which a basic human limit and fulfilled basic justice, and the relation of justice and law. Texts will include Aristotle's *Politics*, Plato's *Republic*, Aquinas's *Summa Theologica*, Sen's *Gaudy Night*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Camus's *Tragedy of Mariam*, Marx's *The German Ideology*, and King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006, or permission of the instructor.

GRID-3406. Philosophy and Art

This course will explore the relation between philosophy, aesthetics, and art. In particular, it will examine the relation of human action and imagination and the degree to which a canonic aesthetic form exists. Texts include Euripides' *Bacchant*, Plato's *Protagoras*, Aristotle's *Poetics*, Book of Relations, Sidgwick's *Defence of Poetry*, and Hegel's *Aesthetics*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006 and GRID 2106.

GRID-3506. Freedom (HMRT 3216)

This course will examine the nature of freedom in the context of human life and community. Questions to be addressed will include: To what extent is human being free by nature? Should political community be a form of freedom? What might be a political limitation on freedom? Texts include Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Plato's *Crito*, Aquinas's *On Free Will*, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* and Hegel's *The Philosophy of Right*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006.

GRID-3606. Faith and Reason

This course will explore faith and reason as a basic human being apprehends the world, the fundamental object of understanding. The nature and capacity of faith and reason are related to the relation of one another and will be explored through Aristotle and Hilary of Poitiers' *On the One and the Other of the Eucharist*. Texts include Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, Aquinas's *Summa Theologiae*, Augustine's *Discourse on Method*, Descartes's *Discourse on Method*, and Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Prerequisite: GRID 2006.

GRID-3706. Shakespeare and Politics (ENGL)

This course will explore the work of Shakespeare in the context of Renaissance political thought as reflected in his plays and in early modern political theory. We will focus on the plays, although Shakespeare's non-dramatic works may be included, as well as modern film adaptations. Prerequisite: ENGL 1006, or permission of instructor.

GRID-3903. Honours Thesis Proposal

The purpose of this course is to afford students an opportunity to receive an Honours degree. The course will provide a thorough overview of the process, including a bibliography. Students will be required to write a thesis proposal and defend it.

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GRID-4003. Independent Study

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GRID-4006. Independent Study

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GRID-4806. Special Topics Course

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GRID-4903. Honours Seminar

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GRID-4906. Honours Thesis

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GRID-4913. Capstone Seminar

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NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Program Director for more information about current and planned course offerings.