

The first part of the course focuses on the foundations of Western thought, including the study of ancient Greek philosophy and the works of Plato and Aristotle. This is followed by a study of the medieval period, with a focus on the works of Thomas Aquinas and the development of scholasticism. The course then moves on to the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, exploring the ideas of humanism and the scientific revolution. Finally, the course concludes with a study of modern philosophy, including the works of Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Hegel.

The second part of the course focuses on the development of modern political thought, including the works of John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Immanuel Kant. This is followed by a study of the American Revolution and the development of the American political system. The course then moves on to the study of modern political theory, including the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Finally, the course concludes with a study of contemporary political thought, including the works of Hannah Arendt and Jürgen Habermas.

A

Great Books

Do you believe that university is about examining life's great questions? By reading classic works of the western world, you will explore life's great themes of love, friendship, freedom, and ethics as seen by authors across cultures and throughout the ages. You'll be encouraged to read and think critically about contrasting perspectives. You'll be challenged to examine your own ideas. Through the study of novels, plays, poetry, philosophical texts and contemporary films, you will wrestle with diverse and conflicting arguments, and debate the ideas which shape our world.

Small classes bring an intimate atmosphere as you actively engage in discussions and work collaboratively to understand such books as Homer's *Iliad*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Plato's *Republic*, and Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Each of the themes covered includes texts and instruction from the perspective of Political Science, Philosophy, and English.

Course

- Political Science 1006 Introduction to Political Science
- Philosophy 1013/1023 Introduction to Western Philosophy I/II
- English 1006 Introduction to Literature

Great Books and Human Rights

Great Books and Human Rights is designed for first year students engaged in questions of social justice and human rights. Students in this section of Aquinas will learn how to critically assess different accounts of justice, seeking to understand the philosophic foundations of human rights and their importance in the contemporary order. Reading texts such as Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, and Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, students will be engaged in answering questions such as: What is a just law? What is the basis of human equality? What

Great Books For Journalists

Do you believe a liberal arts education should give you the tools to reflect on some of the perennial questions of human life? In this section, you will tackle questions such as What is good? What is evil? Does power corrupt? You will reflect on the media's role in society. Is media based on reason and deliberation? Is it used to advance personal passions and interests? Is it used to exercise power through manipulation and propaganda?

The section draws from Journalism, Political Science, and Philosophy. The Journalism aspect of the section offers students a modern/contemporary historical component and allows students to see how the ideas of the older texts they read can shed light on world events.

Course

- Journalism 1013/1023 The Messenger: Journalism and Storytelling/The Message: Great Stories of Journalism
- Political Science 1006 Introduction to Political Science
- Philosophy 1006 Introduction to Western Philosophy