

Great Books

The Great Books Program is an interdisciplinary liberal arts program. It is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore some of the perennial questions 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 instructors to ensure an interdisciplinary perspective. All students planning on completing the Major or Honours program in Great Books are required to complete a second Major.

Honours

An Honours 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 approved 3 credit-hour course at the 3000/4000 level in another discipline. Students interested in an Honours degree in Great Books should preferably apply to the Great Books Steering Committee by the beginning of their third year. Students should indicate when applying for the Honours BA in Great Books which courses they propose to count for these credits. Students are also strongly encouraged to take 6 credit hours of a language, particularly one that will be connected to their thesis. Students must take GRID 3903 in the second half of their third year. Application forms are available from the Director of Great Books. Entrance to the Great Books Honours Program requires a 3.7 GPA in Great Books courses and a 3.3 GPA in all other courses.

Major

To complete the Great Books Major, students are required to complete the following thematic courses:

Second year: 12 credit hours (GRID 2006 and one other 2000 level course)

Third year: 12 credit hours in upper-level Great Books courses
(GRID 3106, 3306, 3406, 3506, 3606 one other 2000 level course)

of disciplines as an introduction to the study of significant ideas, ancient and modern. Themes will include ideas of the good life, freedom, justice, friendship and others. Typically studied will be texts such as Plato's *Republic*, Malory's *Le Morte d' Arthur*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and Austen's *Emma*. This course is not a required course for the Great Books Major and will not count towards the Major.

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

This course is designed to approach the perennial issue of The Quest for the Good Life through the thoughtful reading of some of the greatest works in a variety of disciplines. The texts may include ancient and modern, all selected because they speak to and illuminate this theme. Texts will vary from year to year but will include works such as Aristotle's *Ethics*, the

understand themselves and others. It is particularly concerned with how individuals define themselves as belonging to, distinct from, or in conflict with particular nations, cultures, or peoples. Students will explore themes such as nationalism, colonialism, exile, racism, slavery, and globalization. Texts may include *Exodus*, Shakespeare's *Othello*, Behn's *Oroonoko*, Kant's *Perpetual Peace*, Sears' *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 question of justice.

Themes to be addressed will include an individual's responsibility to others, the role of community in promoting human happiness, the manner in which we are both limited and fulfilled by justice, and the relationship of justice and law. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Plato's *Republic*, Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Cary's *Tragedy of Mariam*, Marx's *The German Ideology*, and King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

Great Books Program. Students must complete this course to be eligible for GRID 4906.

GRID-4003. Independent Study

Students undertake an independent study under the direction of a member of the Great Books faculty, with the permission of the Great Books Director. This course is limited to students of proven academic merit.

GRID-4006. Independent Study

Students undertake an independent study under the direction of a member of the Great Books faculty, with the permission of the Great Books Director. This course is limited to students of proven academic merit.

GRID-4806. Special Topics Course

This course involves the in-depth study of a particular text or set of texts related thematically. The course will be organized around the particular interests and expertise of the available faculty member teaching it, so as to capitalize on the research and theoretical interests of faculty participants in Great Books. Its content will also take into account the particular needs of students in any given academic year.

GRID-4903. Honours Seminar

This seminar will be centred on the intensive study of the text(s) of a thinker who has greatly influenced the shape of the western world. The texts may be ancient or modern, and may be literary, historical, philosophic, and/or political in nature.

GRID-4906. Honours Thesis

The Honours thesis is an extended scholarly paper on a topic written under the supervision of a faculty member who agrees to serve as thesis director. When completed, the students will be required to present and defend the thesis before their classmates and the faculty of the Great Books Program. Students must complete GRID 3903 to be eligible for GRID 4906.

GRID-4913. Capstone Seminar

The capstone seminar in Great Books will be an author/work specific course in which students spend an extensive period of time studying the text(s) of a thinker who has greatly influenced the shape of the western world. The author or texts may be ancient or modern, and may be literary, historical, philosophic and/or political in nature.

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