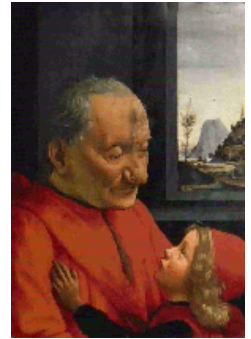


# Great Books Curriculum

Dedicated to the best that has been thought and said.

Volume 2 Number 2



## Great Books Curriculum Fall Theme: The Quest for Identity

The Great Books Curriculum, following up on the enthusiastic student response to its inaugural spring theme "The Pursuit of Happiness," has announced plans to offer this fall a common theme around "Quest for Identity." As was the case in spring semester, "The Quest for Identity" will be investigated within and outside the classroom from a variety of angles through lectures, discussions, events and activities. Students will have an opportunity to work out with the greatest minds in history such questions as: "Who Am I?" "What Exactly Makes Me Me?" "Is It Who I am or Who I Plan to Be or



**Professor Sue Maurer**  
**Fall GBC Theme Sponsor**

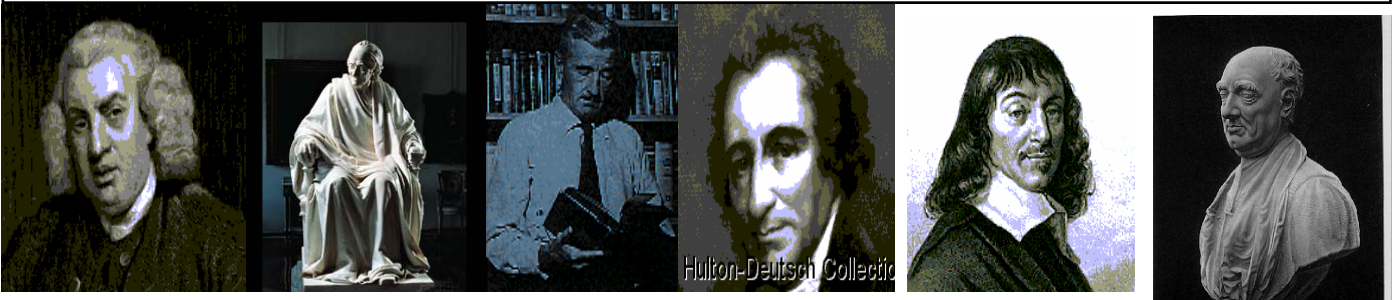
How I Behave or What Society Says I Am?

According to Humanities Professor Sue Maurer, who persuaded the Great Books Curriculum Committee to adopt the theme, "The Quest for Identity" is something so many Wright students are deeply concerned about in their own lives that I am sure they will find this semester's theme especially relevant and helpful."

Dean of Instruction Don Barshis, added, "Being able to enroll in several classes that investigate a common question will make studies more stimulating, coherent and meaningful."

A complete listing of "upcoming "Quest for Identity" classes and authors can be found on page four.

## First Great Books Curriculum Winners Awarded Second "Name That Genius Contest" Announced:



The six people pictured here are all Great Books authors. Their names all appear in the chart on page four listing fall Great Books classes. Each author is being taught by a different professor. The first student to submit to Professor Gans in Room L 372 the names of the six authors pictured along with the professors who will be teaching them will win a hardcover book of your choice by any Great Books Author listed on page four. Spring Semester winner, Michael Fortunato received a Library of Congress special edition of the *Writings of Ralph Emerson*. Runners-up who also qualified for other Great Books texts were students Brian Lenehan, Elena Susan and

# GBC Presents First Student Symposium on Spring Theme “Pursuit of Happiness”

Over two thousand years ago Plato, Socrates, Aristophanes and Alcibiades got together for a dinner party that went far into the night in celebration of good fellowship and above all in a supremely stimulating conversation about love. Plato's account of the party became known as *The Symposium* and the name has ever since been conferred on an event where people gather for the fun of learning from each other through discussing an important question.

Hence on Wednesday April 14th 12:15 p.m. in the Wright College Events Building Theater, students from English, Humanities Social Science and Academic Honor society P.T.K. will convene in a joint panel to examine, from the perspectives of their own academic disciplines, how to conduct the “pursuit of happiness” which has been the basis for the Spring GBC, P.T.K. inspired, Spring 99 theme.

Students outside the program and classes within the GBC



**Prof. Jaskot-Inclan**

program will be invited to attend and participate.

The goal of the event is to provide a forum for Great Books students to directly experience impassioned inquiry with a high level of civility, to meet other students with similar interests and to enjoy a feeling of intellectual community.

The event is a product of an enormous amount of hard work, especially on the part of Professor Jaskot-Inclan. According to Professor Gans, Great Books Curriculum Coordinator,, “Maria did an unbelievably impressive job. I knew nothing about the practical aspects of organizing an effective symposium, especially one that features students who obviously must have special preparation. Maria donated her special skills and expertise as a Speech teacher. She worked with the staff from the other participating disciplines—Professors Buckley, Chaplik-Aleskow, Casal and Komai-Thompson—to train students properly. She for all practical purposes single-handedly organized the event, and was innovative enough to design activities prior to the symposium, like organizing information tables, to help Wright College understand better what PTK and the GBC can do for students. It

## Prof Casal Joins Great Books Curriculum Faculty New Social Science Classes Added to Program

An acutely vital element has been added to the Great Books Curriculum with the addition of Social Science Professor Al Casal. Prof. Casal joined the GBC faculty in the Spring of 99 and will be offering his three Great Books Social Science courses for the first time in the fall. They include World Civilization to 1500, World Civilization 1500 to the Present, and History of the American People to 1865. According to Professor



**Prof. Casals**

Gans, “Al is a superb edition. The GBC wants to offer students courses across the curriculum and Social Science is crucial. Another big plus is that Al is a very intellectually dynamic and personable guy. The students love him. Thanks to his erudition I have read Voltaire's *Letters on the English Nation* and a biography of Thomas Jefferson. This is exactly what the Great Books Curriculum hopes to do—widen the intellectual horizons of its members in an



**Don Barshis**  
Dean of Instruction



**Prof. Buckley**  
English



**Prof. Casal**  
Social Science



**Prof. Gans**  
Great Books  
Coordinator



**Prof. Gariepy**  
English



**Prof. Holm**  
Humanities.

# Meet Your Great Books Curriculum Faculty



**Prof. Hoover**  
Humanities



**Prof. Jaskot-Inclan**  
Speech



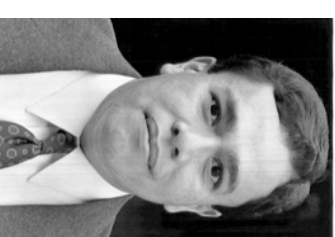
**Prof. Komai-Thompson**  
English



**Prof. Maurer**  
Humanities



**Prof. Rosenman**  
English



**Prof. Virgen**  
English

# Fall 1999 Great Books Curriculum Courses

Prof. Buckley	Literature 118: English Lit from Beginnings to Johnson: Section D9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Beowulf Chaucer Fielding	Malory Milton Shakespeare
Prof. Buckley	English 102 Sections F9 I9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Aquinas Aristotle Freud	Hume James Plato
Prof. Gans	English 102 Sections Q9 R9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Jonathan Swift: <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> and Selected Writings	
Prof. Gans	Lit 110: Intro to Lit Section O9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Chaucer: <i>Canterbury Tales</i> Fitzgerald: <i>The Great Gatsby</i> Conrad: <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Euripides: <i>Trojan Women</i> Shakespeare <i>Sonnets</i> Donne, T.S. Eliot, Keats, Wordsworth, and others
Prof. Gariepy	English 102 Section L9 Theme: Quest for Identity	To Be Announced	
Prof. Gariepy	Lit 113: Intro to Fiction Section J9 Theme: Quest for Identity	To Be Announced	
Prof. Rosenman	English 102 Section E9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Homer: <i>The Odyssey</i> Sophocles: <i>Electra</i>	
Prof. Rosenman	Literature 110 Section C9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Browning Conrad Donne Faulkner Hawthorne	Hemingway Ibsen Joyce Lawrence Shakespeare
Prof. Virgen	English 102 Section G9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Shakespeare: <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> and <i>Macbeth</i>	
Prof. Hoover	Humanities 108: Philosophy of World Religion Thursday 6 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. Theme: Quest for Identity	To Be Announced	
Prof. Maurer	Humanities 201 Section D9 and M9	St. Aquinas: <i>Summa Theologica</i> St. Augustine: <i>Confessions</i> Aristotle: <i>Ethics</i> Chaucer: <i>Canterbury Tales</i> Erasmus: "The Abbot and the Learned Lady"	Everyman or Song of Roland Plato: <i>Crito</i> , <i>Phaedo</i> , "On Education" Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i> Shakespeare: Sonnet
Prof. Maurer	Humanities 202 Section F9 Theme: Quest for Identity	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> Freud: <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> Jefferson: <i>Rights of Man</i> Poetry by Goethe, Keats, Pope, Swift, Wordsworth	Marx: <i>Communist Manifesto</i> Moliere: <i>Tartuffe</i> Voltaire: <i>Candide</i>
Prof. Holm Prof. Hoover et. al.	Humanities 201 and 202 All Sections Theme: Quest for Identity	See Prof. Maurer's Humanities 201 and 202 listing	
Prof. Casal	History 111 Section G9 and R9 History of American People To 1865 Theme: Quest for Identity	Frederick Douglass: <i>Narrative</i> <i>Federalist Papers</i>	Paine: <i>Common Sense</i> Toqueville: <i>Democracy in America</i>
Prof. Casal	History 141 Section C9 World Civilization to 1500 Theme: Quest for Identity	Herodotus: <i>Persian Wars</i> Tacitus: <i>The Annals</i> <i>El Cid</i> and <i>Song of Roland</i>	
Prof. Casal	History 142 Section P9 World Civilization Since 1500 Theme: Quest for Identity	Voltaire: <i>English Letters</i> Rousseau: <i>Social Contract</i>	

# Great Books Curriculum Field Trips a Hit.

## Students Ask Administration to Make It a Regular Wright College Student Benefit

In an effort to give Great Books Curriculum students an opportunity to connect with the larger sphere of high culture and the stimulation, rewards, and contacts it offers, the Wright College Great Books Curriculum successfully sponsored an all day series of lectures and discussions at the University of Chicago centering around the play *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The event included a performance of the play by the classical Court Theater in Hyde Park.

The event, which cost around one hundred dollars, was underwritten by Adam Rose, head of the Basic Program, a Great Books inspired program at the University of Chicago, the Great Books Curriculum at Wright and the Dean of Instruction's office, headed by Don Barshis.

According to Dean Barshis, "The event had a wonderful impact on our students. Many of those who went had never been to a play before. Most if not all had never been to the University of Chicago and had no idea what a medieval English style university campus looked or felt like.

"From what I heard, Professor Buckley really inspired students when he told them that they should consider going to a school like the University of Chicago, one of the best schools in the country.

"The whole experience really opened the eyes of a



**Mandrake: herbs once believed to have magic powers because the root resembled a human being. Also the inspiration for Machivalli's dramatic masterpiece**

lot of our students. They came back extremely enthusiastic and went to Vice

President Gungerich to ask that Wright give students this opportunity regularly. You can't ask for more than that as a measure of success."

Dean Barshis concluded, "I think it's vital that students experience first hand that an interest in high culture it can bring them into a wider intellectual and social milieu, and that these great works have a tangible and transcendent existence in the real world."

Indeed, a second Renaissance masterpiece, *The Mandrake* by Niccolo Machiavelli is also being the focus of a Great Books Curriculum Field trip April 17th at the University of Chicago campus. This particular play is rarely performed so the opportunity provided by the Great Books Curriculum is particularly valuable for students.

The *Midsummer Night's Dream* trip, however, owed a special debt of gratitude

to Professor Adam Rose without whose generous assistance the event could never have taken place "It's extremely important to us

to have interested students from Wright take part," Professor Rose explained. "I see including students like those at Wright part of our mission."

These sentiments were echoed by Court Theater official Kathy Van Zwoll who was equally as instrumental in enabling Wright students to attend *The Mandrake*.

As for the *Midsummer Night's Dream* event, students also participated in an exceptionally lively and informed "symposium" organized by Great Books Curriculum faculty staff, which included Professor Buckley, Hoover, Gans and Jaskot-Inclan. According to Professor Gans, "The play is the thing of course, but for me personally the high point came during the

discussion we had with the students. Jaskot Inclan from Speech, Hoover with her classical background and Buckley with his doctorate in Shakespeare and his ongoing residencies in England over school breaks added a special expertise to the discussion which complemented each other in a wonderful way. It was a revelation just how erudite and articulate and knowledgeable about Renaissance theater they all were.

"Frankly, even though we are all academics, when we see each other around the school we never talk about our great loves because we are so caught up in day to day events.

"So while students got to see a demonstration of just how interesting and informative their teachers really are, it also demonstrated to ourselves just how much we all share this great love of reading and high culture.

"And the great thing was that we all disagreed with each other but it was a lively and even loving disagreement with a wonderful degree of civility and mutual respect. This is exactly the kind of thing I want our students to see as a role model and to become

# Great Books Curriculum

Wright College  
4300 N. Narragansett  
Chicago, Illinois 60634  
773-777-7900



Jane Austen

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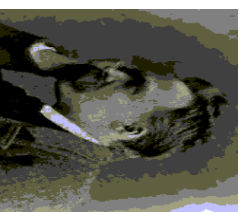


Thucydides



Miguel Cervantes

help increase your reading skills and your ability to succeed in college courses, your job and your personal life. In addition, work you do at a four year college will be based on the books in the Great Books Curriculum. Hence these courses can better prepare you for advanced work. You will achieve the very deep pride and increased self-confidence that comes from mastering Great Books authors. Most importantly, you will be amazed at how your life will be expanded and enriched because you have entered into "conversations" with Great Books authors. The Great Books Curriculum will have you reading and thinking about the same books that people like Shakespeare and Einstein did when they were in your position. You will be shaped by these books just as they were.



Friedrich Nietzsche

College at 773-777-7900 or the Chairman of the Great Books Curriculum, Professor Bruce Gans, at 773-481-8014.

## What Makes It A Great Books Course?

A course earns its certification as a Great Books Course by devoting at least half of the readings in it to books by special authors. In fact, to enjoy the benefits, all you have to do is to look for the classes you would normally take in your class schedule. Then just sign up for the class on the list that has the special Great Books designation. That's all there is to it. In fact, to answer all your questions and get you started, professors from the Great Books Curriculum will be at a special table at registration to help you.

## What Can I Get Out Of It?

Today Great Books courses are being offered in English, Humanities and Philosophy. Upon successful completion of 12 Great Books credit hours toward your degree, you will receive upon graduation a special Great Books track certification on your official college transcript. When you apply to a four-year institution this evidence of your achievement and how serious a student you are can help impress admissions officers.

There are also several practical benefits for you. Great Books courses should help increase your reading skills and your ability to think analytically. These skills will be vital to your ability to succeed in college courses, your job and your personal life. In addition, work you do at a four year college will be based on the books in the Great Books Curriculum. Hence these courses can better prepare you for advanced work. You will achieve the very deep pride and increased self-confidence that comes from mastering Great Books authors. Most importantly, you will be amazed at how your life will be expanded and enriched because you have entered into "conversations" with Great Books authors. The Great Books Curriculum will have you reading and thinking about the same books that people like Shakespeare and Einstein did when they were in your position. You will be shaped by these books just as they were.

## But Wait--There's More!

There will be a modest amount of scholarship money available to some students who join the program. Some activities are also in the works for Great Books students. As an additional benefit, enrolling will give you an opportunity to meet through your classes and outside discussions professors and other students who share your curiosity and excitement about the Great Books. Hopefully this program can open up a new social milieu of intellectual fellowship to you.

For more information on how to open up new worlds call Wright College at 773-777-7900 or the Chairman of the Great Books Curriculum, Professor Bruce Gans, at 773-481-8014.