



Great Books Curriculum

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Faculty: 10/8/2005

Bruce Gans
Great Books Chairman
English

Dear Colleague:

Aldo Alvarez
English

I wanted to make you aware of a highly worthwhile initiative being undertaken presently by Sonia Csaszar that has the potential to be of wonderful service to our students.

Daniel Borzutzky
English

Sarah Bowman
English

Vince Bruckert
English

Cynthia Cordes
Dean of Instruction

Sonia Csaszar
Humanities

Megan Geigner
Speech

Judy Hanley
English

Sonia is reviving a student group sponsored some years back by Trish Connelly and Polly Hoover—what I like to call the Great Books Society. Its purpose is several fold. One is to establish a place on campus where students interested in discussing the questions addressed by the Great Books can get together, much like many of us used to do in coffee houses and friends' rooms when we were in college. Sonia also hopes to open up new worlds of culture and delights to students by exposing and guiding them through realms such as the Lyric Opera and the Newberry Library. Sonia also has hopes of devising service learning activities such as discussion groups consisting of our students and members of the outside community.

Polly Hoover
Humanities

Maria Jaskot-Inclan
Speech

Paul Janus
Biology

Kim Knutson
English

Joo Lee
Humanities

All of these activities can have a major positive impact on the students who participate. While doing my best to avoid “assessment speak” let me say that I think it will help students get much needed unpressured pace for becoming more articulate and insightful and comfortable handling complex texts. Meeting in discussion groups can build more academic self confidence, greater academic satisfaction, and greater self fulfillment—all of which would presumably spill over in their attitudes an interest in enrolling in classes like yours.

Christine Perri
English

Michael Petersen
English

Patti Renda
English

Thomas Sills
Physical Science

Phillip Virgen
English

Jane Wagoner
English

Arlene Weaver
English

James Zenes
Social Science

What I personally feel is especially valuable in this initiative is that a Great Books student society could help give students a first opportunity to meet peers who will not consider them weird or hopelessly “uncool” for liking Great Books while encouraging additional students to develop a personal identity as an intellectual, a scholar, something that too often our students especially have been discouraged from doing by previous environments that shaped them prior to coming to Wright. **Please therefore inform your students that the first this is coming into existence and that the first meeting will be held Tuesday, October 11, at 3:00 PM in the Faculty Cafeteria. Refreshments will be served. And Sonia is making a special point of inviting suggestions for this group both from students and from you.** Hope to see you and your students there.

Best,