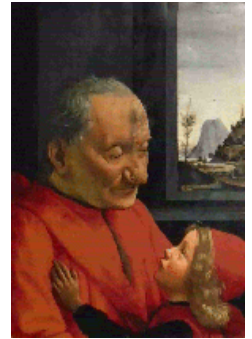


Great Books Curriculum

Dedicated to the best that has been thought and said.

Volume 2 Number 1



Great Books Curriculum and P.T.K. Form Alliance In Pursuit of Happiness

The Great Books Curriculum and P.T.K., the Wright College academic honors society, have announced plans to offer this spring semester, for the first time, a common theme around which classes, events and activities will be presented. The theme, "The Pursuit of Happiness" will be investigated and pondered within and outside the classroom from a variety of angles. Students will have an opportunity to work out with the greatest minds in history such questions as: "What will bring me lasting happiness in my private life?" "Is a happy society possible?" "Does pleasure or virtue bring greater happiness?"



The Garden of Earthly Delights
by Hieronymus Bosch

"What makes for the greatest political happiness?"

According to Dean of Instruction Don Barshis, "Being able to enroll in several classes that investigate a common question and get you in touch with fellow students interested in the same thing in extra curricular activities from different perspectives will be a great opportunity for Wright College students to make their studies more stimulating, coherent and meaningful."

"The Pursuit of Happiness" is a theme P.T.K. chapters nationally will be doing this spring. The idea to join P.T.K. with Great Books was

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Great Books Curriculum Wins First Funding

Students inspired and intrigued by the best that has been thought and said will now begin to see the force of Socrates' dictum that virtue brings all forms of wealth and happiness. For starting in the fall of this year the Great Books Curriculum earned its first independent funding, money that will in part be used according to Dean of Instruction Don Barshis, to assist a few dedicated Great Books Curriculum students with some modest scholarship funds for books and tuition.

The first ever Great

Books Curriculum budget is a modest one, a thousand dollars to be exact. But that sum is in itself an achievement for a year ago the program had no budget at all, and survived entirely on the extra work put in by the Great Books Curriculum faculty and the generosity and prudent financial

management of Don Barshis who managed to squeeze a few hundred dollars out of his Dean of Instruction budget to underwrite the costs to students of the first Great Books Curriculum field trips which enabled dozens of Wright College students to see for the first time in

their lives in many cases, classic Greek drama in the form of Euripides' *Iphigeneia* plays and Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard*.

In the upcoming months it is also hoped that a portion of the funds can be devoted to publishing a first ever journal of outstanding scholarship on Great Books authors by Wright College students. The magazine, *Symposium*, is

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New Faculty Join Great Books Curriculum Staff

Great Books Curriculum students are currently receiving the newest benefits of two exceptionally bright, talented, energetic and hard working new faculty: Humanities Professor Polly Hoover and Speech Professor Maria Jaskot-Inclan.

Both faculty have taught at Wright for the past couple years as adjuncts and were selected from a highly competitive field of candidates to start teaching full time this fall. Both Professor Hoover and Professor Jaskot-Inclan earned the highest praise from both students and their colleagues while teaching part time at Wright and both sought out the Great Books Curriculum as a natural extension of their intellectual interests and their desire to help students to love the Great Books as much as they themselves do.

Professor Hoover has a Masters Degree in Philosophy and also a Masters and a doctorate in Classics. She is fluent in Latin, Ancient Greek, French and German. Her



Prof. Jaskot-Inclan

intellectual interests are just as broad as her linguistics. This spring she will be teaching women authors who range from the ancient Greek Sappho to the latter day Nobel Prize winning Toni Morrison.

One of Professor Hoover's first goals upon joining the Wright College faculty full time has been to resurrect a World Literature courses which has not been taught at Wright for some time. It will be up and running this spring.

Professor Hoover is also hoping to work this spring in conjunction with Professor Gans to establish a Great Books curriculum Web page which will feature special links to help students with research, syllabi from Great Books Curriculum faculty and hopefully some links that are there for pure intellectual pleasure.

Professor Jaskot-Inclan, who received her degree from Southern Illinois University, hopes to offer her first Great Books Curriculum course next fall. With a major interest in theater, Professor Jaskot-Inclan aims to give students an opportunity



Prof. Hoover

to learn how to act through an Introduction to Theater course given through the Speech Department.

"Classical drama is as relevant today as it was then," Professor Jaskot-Inclan explained. "Numerous modern plays exhibit themes, structures and devices used by Sophocles, Euripides and Shakespeare. Ibsen introduced realism and Checkhov continued. The Great Books Curriculum also encompasses the works of modern dramatists including Tennessee Williams. The plays are the core of any theater curriculum and Wright students would find acting in them simply fun. The enticing plots, diverse characters and colorful language move audiences as much today as they did in the past."

A third faculty member, Biology Professor Henry Herzog, has also become affiliated with the Great Books Curriculum as a liaison with P.T.K.

"Great Books is an

Pursuit of Happiness continued

the inspiration of Professor Komai-Thompson who is an advisor to P.T.K. and a member of the Great Books Curriculum faculty. She explains, "the beauty of our working together is that it gives students an opportunity to benefit from two outstanding academic and social resources at the same time.

"P.T.K. students are among

our brightest and most intellectually curious and hard working students." Professor Komai-Thompson added. Many of them are already enthusiastic members of the Great Book Curriculum. But they are especially eager to enjoy a sense of camaraderie that exploring a common theme with other students outside the organization can give."

Professor Gans added, "The Pursuit of Happiness" theme offers

students at Wright a chance to pick up something much more valuable than some course credits and grades. The question of what will make you truly happy is a central question in everyone's life. If our students can come up with the right answer to this question through these classes, it'll be something beyond any price. Just think of the suffering it will spare you!" A list of spring courses and authors that will



Prof. Barshis
Dean of Instruction



Prof. Buckley
English



Prof. Casals
Social Science



Prof. Gans
Great Books
Coordinator



Prof. Gariepy
English



Prof. Hummer
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. Virger
English

AUTHORIZED FOR POSTING

Spring 1999 Great Books Curriculum Courses

Professor Buckley	Intro to Shakespeare Literature 211 Section G9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Shakespeare: <i>Henry IV: Pts One and Two</i> <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> Others to be announced
Professor Gans	English 102 Sections O9 Q9 R9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Schopenhauer: <i>The Wisdom of Life</i> Hemingway: <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> J.S. Mill: <i>Utilitarianism</i> Aristophanes: <i>Women in Assembly</i>
Professor Gariepy	English 102 Section K9 Theme: Good and Evil	Hawthorne Flannery O'Connor
Professor Gariepy	Intro to Fiction Literature 113 Section I9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	To be announced.
Professor Hoover	World Literature Humanities 205 Section H9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Dante: <i>The Inferno</i> Euripides: <i>Medea</i> Homer: <i>The Odyssey</i> Sappho Vergil
Professor Komai-Thompson	English 102 Section G9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Frederick Douglass Richard Wright Ralph Ellison Others to be announced
Professor Rosenman	English 102 Section C9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Homer: <i>The Odyssey</i> Sophocles: <i>Elektra</i> others to be announced
Professor Styne	American Lit: Civil War to 20th Century. Section D9 Literature 117	Dickinson Henry James Dreiser Twain T.S. Eliot Whitman
Professor Virgen	English 102 Section H9 Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Shakespeare: <i>Merchant of Venice</i> <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
Professors Holm Professor Hoover Professor Maurer et. al.	All Humanities 201 sections Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Aquinas Erasmus Aristotle Machiavelli Augustine Shakespeare Chaucer Song of Roland or Everyman
Professor Holm Professor Hoover Professor Maurer et. al.	All Humanities 202 sections Theme: Pursuit of Happiness	Darwin Goethe Rousseau Descartes Marx Voltaire Freud Moliere Wordsworth
Professor Upin	Ethics Philosophy 107 Sections F9 Q9 Themes: Pursuit of Happiness Good and Evil	Aristotle Kant Bentham Plato

Midsummer Night's Dream Proposed For Spring Field Trip: Event To Be Entree for Wright Students Into Chicagoland Great Books Network

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 hopes to link up with the city and suburb wide Chicagoland Great Books Network this February. The occasion will be a Court Theater production of Shakespeare's *midsummer Night's Dream*. Unlike the past two Wright College Great Books Curriculum field trips, however, this one will also offer a discussion sponsored by the Great Books Network, an organization that includes the University of Chicago, Shimer College, Court Theater, The Great Books



Olivia de Havilland as Hermia and Mickey Rooney as Puck in a 1935 film version of *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Foundation and a variety of other theater and discussion groups. According to Wright College Great Books Curriculum Program Coordinator Professor Gans, "I think it's vital that students experience first hand that an interest in

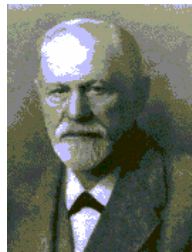
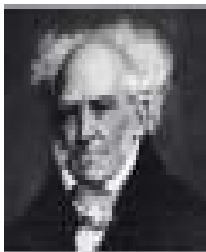
high culture it can bring them into a wider intellectual and social milieu, and that these great works have a tangible and transcendent existence in the real world."

Through the

sponsorship of the Office of Instruction a dozen Great Books Curriculum Wright College students will see for free, while another dozen will see for half price, Shakespeare's comedy which concerns the spring Great Books Curriculum theme "The Pursuit of Happiness" through the pursuit of the ideal love. The field trip is tentatively scheduled for February 13th at 5535 S. Ellis Ave. in Chicago.

The free tickets will go to students enrolled spring semester Great Books classes on a first come basis. Students who wish to attend should contact Dean of Students Don Barshis

Spring Semester Great Books Curriculum Contest: Name That Genius



The six people pictured here are all Great Books authors. Their names all appear in the chart on page four listing spring 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 in addition to a prominent receive mention in the next Great Books Curriculum newsletter.

Great Books Curriculum

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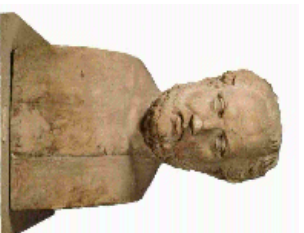


Jane Austen

Why is it that only a very small number of the millions of books ever written have been inspiring, comforting and intriguing people for centuries? Why for centuries has every well-educated person been expected to be acquainted with these works? The answer is because these books are the most beautiful and profound of all.

Now there is a brand new program at Wright College where your professors will take special pains to make sure you can understand and really enjoy the things in these works that have made them so important to people for centuries.

It's called the Great Books Curriculum. And you can take advantage of it without spending one extra dime. There is no complicated procedure to go through to be a member.

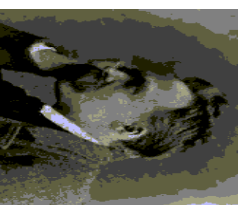


Thucydides



Miguel Cervantes

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.



Friedrich Nietzsche

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.

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.

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.