



Great Books Curriculum

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Congratulations. Your outstanding academic work at Wright College has earned you a place on the Dean's List. As a result, I am writing to personally invite you to join the Great Books Curriculum. As its chairman, I am especially interested in seeing serious and accomplished students like you get the benefits of this fine program.

Want to learn more? Let me explain: The Great Books Curriculum consists of courses in English, History and the Humanities where the professors and students focus on a special group of the most profound and beautiful books ever written. The courses have the same names, like English 102, as the regular courses. They are equally transferable and meet the general degree requirements. The difference is what you will be reading and talking about inside and beyond the classroom.

There will be several benefits for you in this *free* program. Upon completion of 12 Great Books Curriculum credit hours, you will receive upon graduation a special Great Books Curriculum certification on your official college transcript. When you apply to a four-year college, this evidence of your special preparation, your special academic seriousness and your achievement can help impress admissions officers. Moreover, Great Books Curriculum courses should help increase your reading skills and your ability to think analytically. These skills will be vital to your ability to succeed in a four year college where much work is in fact based on the works in the Great Books Curriculum. The Great Books Curriculum will have you reading and thinking about the same books that people like Shakespeare and Einstein did when they were students/ You can be shaped by these books just as they were. Moreover, Great Books Curriculum classes now pursue semester long questions such as "Questions of Good and Evil" and "The Pursuit of Happiness" and The Quest for Identity." In this way you can enroll in courses coordinated to make the curriculum especially rich and interconnected.

But wait—there's more. This past semester the Great Books Curriculum sponsored an all day event to the University of Chicago where students participated in lectures and discussions concerning *Midsummer Night's Dream* and then saw the play itself. Close to thirty Wright Great Books Curriculum students were exposed *for free* to an important element of our culture they would not have experienced and enjoyed. Also we have begun to get some local and national recognition through invitations to appear on radio shows and a national conference. Students will also be participating in three different panels for a symposium concerning this semester's theme.

There will be a modest amount of scholarship money available to some students who join the program. As an additional benefit, signing up for Great Books Curriculum courses for fall will give you an opportunity to meet professors and fellow students who share your intellectual curiosity and excitement. Hopefully this program can open up a new social milieu of intellectual fellowship to you. **Be sure you know which classes are designated for the Great Books Curriculum when you register for the new term. They will be designated by a “9” in the course number.** If I can be of any help to you in taking part please do call me at 773-481-8014.

All best,

Professor Bruce Gans
Coordinator, Great Books Curriculum