

Readings

Below you will find the four year reading list for our Great Books Program for the current academic year, beginning with the Greek year of the program. In addition to the readings and two hour discussions each week, the students write papers which are evaluated, marked, and returned to them.

Our college program students write one 1500 word essay each semester in addition to weekly writing assignments pertaining to each week's reading. Reading and discussing great works is tremendously helpful to students in the development of their ability to write well.

Please note in the lists below that some of the selections are marked with an asterisk. We read selections from those texts rather than the entire work.

Eighty percent [80%] of the weekly readings can be found in Britannica's *Great Books of the Western World* 60 volume set. You can purchase this set and/or the individual works and our *Great Books Study Guides* from the [Academy Bookstore here](#).



YEAR 1 - 2009/10 Great Books Program			
First Year - The Ancient Greeks			
Week	First Semester	Week	Second Semester
NOTA BENE:	<u>Reading before the second class:</u> <i>Theogony - Hesiod;</i>	17	<i>Medea, Bacchae - Euripedes</i> (Jan. 19)

	Prometheus Bound - Aeschylus	18	<i>Peloponnesian War*</i> - Thucydides (Jan. 26)
1	<i>Orientation:</i> (Sept. 1) Intro to the Great Books & Socratic Discussion. <i>The Great Conversation</i> , Adler	19	<i>Peloponnesian War *</i> Thucydides (Feb. 2)
2	<i>Theogony</i> - Hesiod <i>Prometheus Bound</i> - Aeschylus (Sept. 8)	20	<i>Fragments*</i> - Presocratic Philosophers (Feb. 9)
3	<i>The Iliad</i> - Homer (Sept. 15)	21	<i>Ion, Meno</i> - Plato (Feb. 16)
4	<i>The Iliad</i> - Homer (Sept. 22)	22	<i>Gorgias</i> - Plato (Feb. 23)
5	<i>The Odyssey</i> - Homer (Sept. 29)	23	<i>Republic</i> - Plato (Mar. 2)
6	<i>The Odyssey</i> - Homer (Oct. 6)	24	<i>Symposium</i> - Plato (Mar. 9)
7	<i>Agamemnon, Libation Bearers</i> - Aeschylus <i>Eumenides</i> - Aeschylus (Oct. 13]	25	<i>Apology, Euthyphro</i> - Plato (Mar. 16)
8	<i>Trojan Women, Alcestis</i> - Euripedes (Oct. 20)	26	<i>Crito, Phaedo</i> - Plato (Mar. 23)
9	<i>Aesop's Fables</i> - Aesop (Oct. 27)	27	Spring Break, Mar. 28 - April 10
10	<i>Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus</i> - Sophocles (Nov. 3)	28	Spring Break, March 28 - April 10
11	<i>Antigone</i> - Sophocles , <i>Hippolytus</i> - Euripides (Nov. 10)	29	<i>Poetics, On the Heavens*</i> , <i>On the Soul*</i> - Aristotle (April 13)
12	<i>Histories*</i> - Herodotus (Nov. 17)	30	<i>Ethics*</i> , <i>Metaphysics*</i> - Aristotle {April 20)
13	<i>Histories*</i> -	31	<i>Aristides, Alexander</i> - Plutarch (Apr. 27)
		32	<i>The Oath, On Ancient Medicine, On Airs, Waters, Places</i> - Hippocrates (May 4)
		33	<i>Elements</i> , Euclid (May 11)
		34	Oral Exams (May 12-31)

	Herodotus (Nov. 24)	
14	<i>Histories</i> * - Herodotus (Dec. 1)	
15	<i>Lycurgus, Solon, Pericles, Alcibiades</i> - Plutarch (Dec. 8)	
16	Oral Exams (December 9 - 23)	<i>*Selections Only</i>

YEAR 2 - 2009/10 Great Books Program			
Second Year - Roman Readings			
Week	First Semester	Week	Second Semester
1	<i>Aeneid</i> - Virgil (Sept. 2)	17	<i>Old Testament</i> - Genesis (Jan. 20)
2	<i>Aeneid</i> - Virgil (Sept. 9)	18	<i>New Testament</i> * (Jan. 27)
3	Livy * (Sept. 16)	19	<i>Apocalypse</i> (Book of Revelation)- John (Feb. 3)
4	Livy * (Sept. 23)	20	<i>Confessions</i> - Augustine (Feb. 10)
5	Plutarch: Romulus, Numa Pomulus, Coriolanus, Caesar (Sept. 30)	21	<i>Confessions</i> - Augustine (Feb. 17)
6	<i>Conquest of Gaul</i> - Caesar (Oct. 7)	22	<i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> - Boethius (Feb. 24)
7	Plutarch: Cato the Younger, Antony, Brutus, Cicero (Oct. 14)	23	<i>Qu'ran</i> *; Muhammed (Mar. 3)
8	<i>On Friendship</i> - Cicero (Oct. 21)	24	<i>Two Lives of Charlemagne; Le Cid</i> -

9	<i>On Duties</i> - Cicero (Oct. 28)	Corneille (Mar. 10)
10	<i>Annals*</i> - Tacitus (Nov. 4)	25 <i>History of the English People</i> - Bede [Mar.17]
11	<i>On the Nature of Things*</i> - Lucretius (Nov. 11)	26 <i>Sir Galahad</i> - Tennyson <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (March 24)
12	<i>Discourses*</i> - Epictetus ; <i>Meditations*</i> - Marcus Aurelius {Nov. 18)	27 Spring Break - March 28 - April 10
13	<i>Almagest</i> - Ptolemy (Nov. 25) <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> {Nov. 27)	28 Spring Break - March 28 - April 10)
14	<i>On the Natural Faculties</i> - Galen (Dec. 2)	29 <i>Memoirs of the Crusades; Crusade of St. Louis</i> - Al-Makrisi (Apr. 14)
15	<i>Enneads*</i> - Plotinus (Dec. 9)	30 <i>Song of Roland</i> (Apr. 21)
16	Oral exams - Dec. 9-23	31 <i>The Divine Comedy</i> - Dante (April 28)
		32 <i>The Divine Comedy</i> - Dante (May 5)
		33 <i>The Divine Comedy</i> - Dante (May 12)
		34 Oral Exams (May 12-31)

**Selections Only*

YEAR 3 - 2009/10 Great Books Program			
Third Year - Medieval Readings			
Week	First Semester	Week	Second Semester
1	<i>Canterbury Tales</i> (Sept. 3) - Chaucer	17	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> , Shakespeare (Jan. 21)
2	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>		

	(Sept. 10) - Chaucer	18	<i>A Midsummer's Night's Dream;</i> Shakespeare (Jan. 28)
3	Aquinas* (Sept. 17)	19	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> - William Shakespeare (Feb. 4)
4	Aquinas* (Sept. 24)	20	<i>Coriolanus</i> - Shakespeare (Feb. 11)
5	Aquinas* (Oct. 1)	21	<i>Julius Caesar</i> - Shakespeare (Feb. 18)
6	Aquinas* (Oct. 8)	22	<i>Dialogues Concerning</i> <i>Two New Sciences*</i> - Galileo (Feb. 25)
7	Aquinas* (Oct. 15)	23	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> - Shakespeare (Mar. 4)
8	<i>The Prince</i> - Machiavelli (Oct. 22)	24	<i>Henry V</i> - Shakespeare (Mar. 11)
9	<i>Utopia</i> - Sir Thomas More (Oct. 29)	25	<i>The New Atlantis and</i> <i>Novum Organum*</i> - Bacon (Mar. 18)
10	<i>Praise of Folly</i> - Erasmus (Nov. 5)	26	<i>Rules for the Direction of</i> <i>the Mind*</i> , <i>Discourse on</i> <i>Method*</i> , <i>Meditations-</i> Descartes (Mar. 25)
11	<i>On the Revolutions</i> <i>of the Heavenly</i> <i>Spheres*</i> - Copernicus (Nov. 12)	27	<i>Spring Break, March 28 -</i> <i>April 10</i>
12	Institutes of the Christian Religion* - Calvin (Nov. 19)	28	<i>Spring Break, March 28</i> <i>- April 10</i>
13	Thanksgiving Break - (Nov. 26)	29	<i>Leviathan*</i> - Hobbes - (Apr. 15)
14	<i>Essays*</i> - Montaigne (Dec. 3)	30	<i>Paradise Lost</i> - Milton (Apr. 22)
15	<i>Don Quixote*</i> - Cervantes (Dec. 10)	31	<i>Paradise Lost</i> - Milton (April 29)
16	<i>Don Quixote*</i> - Cervantes (Dec. 17)		
17	Oral Exams - (Dec. 9 - 23)		

**Selections Only*

	32	<i>Pensees</i> * - Pascal (May 6)
	33	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> - Wm. Shakespeare (May 13)
	34	Oral Exams - (May 12-31)

YEAR 4 - 2009/10 Great Books Program	
Fourth Year - Modern Readings	
Week	First Semester
1	<i>Hamlet</i> - Wm. Shakespeare (Sept. 4)
2	<i>Othello</i> - William Shakespeare (Sept. 11)
3	<i>MacBeth</i> - William Shakespeare (Sept. 18)
4	<i>King Lear</i> - William Shakespeare (Sept. 25)
5	<i>The Tempest</i> - William Shakespeare (Oct. 2)
6	<i>Tartuffe</i> - Moliere ; <i>Phaedra</i> , Racine (Oct. 9)
7	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i> - Jonathan Swift (Oct. 16)
8	<i>Essay Concerning Human</i>

	<p><i>Knowledge*</i>, <i>Second Essay on Civil Government*</i>, <i>Letter on Toleration*</i> - John Locke (Oct. 23)</p>	
9	<p><i>Essay Concerning Human Knowledge*</i>, <i>Second Essay on Civil Government*</i>, <i>Letter on Toleration*</i> - John Locke (Oct. 30)</p>	
10	<p><i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*</i>, <i>Treatise of Human Nature*</i>, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*</i> - David Hume (Nov. 6)</p>	
11	<p><i>The Social Contract*</i>, <i>On the Origin of Inequality*</i> - Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Nov. 13)</p>	
12	<p><i>The Federalist Papers*</i>; - Q 105, Art. 1 - Aquinas (Nov. 20)</p>	
13	<p>Thanksgiving (Nov. 27)</p>	
14	<p><i>U.S. Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, & Constitution</i> (Dec. 4)</p>	

15 *Democracy in America**, - **De Tocqueville**;
*Representative Government**, **J.S, Mill** (Dec. 11)

16 *Emma* - **Jane Austen** (Dec. 18)

Oral Exams (Dec. 9 - 23)

**Selections Only*