

# Great Books

The Great Books Program is an interdisciplinary liberal arts program. It is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore some of the perennial questions of human existence through the reading and discussion of original works by men and women from across the ages. All courses are team-taught by a minimum of two instructors to ensure an interdis-

An Honours Bachelor of Arts in Great Books requires 54 credit hours, including GRBK 2006, one of 2106 or 2206, four of 3106, 3206, 3306, 3406, 3506 or 3606, 3706, 3706, 3903, 4903, 4906, 4913; and an approved 3 credit-hour course at the 3000/4000 level in another discipline. Students interested in an Honours degree in Great Books should apply to the Great Books Steering Committee by the beginning of their third year. Students should indicate when applying for the Honours BA in Great Books which courses they propose to count for these credits. Students are also strongly encouraged to take 6 credit hours of a language, particularly one that will be connected to their thesis. Students must take GRBK 3903 in their third year. Application forms are available from the Director of Great Books. Entrance to the Great Books Honours Program requires a 3.7 GPA in Great Books courses and a 3.3 GPA in all other courses.

## Major

To complete the Great Books Major, students are required to complete the following thematic courses:

Second year: 12 credit hours (GRBK 2006 and one other 2000 level course)

Third year: 12 credit hours in upper-level Great Books courses

(3 credits only)

GRBK 3106	Love and Friendship is cross-listed with both English and Philosophy
GRBK 3306	Justice is cross-listed with Political Science (3 credits only)
GRBK 3506	Freedom is cross-listed with Political Science (3 credits only) and with ENGL 3903

*Note:*

GRBK 2206	Human Nature and Technology counts towards the Group C requirement
GRBK 3406	Philosophy and Art counts towards the Group D requirement



**GRBK-3206. Na a d B de**

This course will explore how humans use geographic, racial, and cultural categories to understand themselves and others. It is particularly concerned with how individuals define themselves as belonging to, distinct from, or in conflict with particular nations, cultures, or peoples. Students will explore themes such as nationalism, colonialism, exile, racism, slavery, and globalization. Texts may include *Exodus*, Shakespeare's *Othello*, Behn's *Oroonoko*, Kant's *Perpetual Peace*, Sears' *Harlem Duet*, and Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*.

**GRBK-3306. Justice (HMRT 3206) (POL)**

This course will explore the nature of human community and the question of justice. Themes to be addressed will include an individual's responsibility to others, the role of community in promoting human happiness, the manner in which we are both limited and fulfilled by justice, and the relationship of justice and law. Texts will vary from year to year, but may include works such as: Plato's *Republic*, Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, Cary's *Tragedy of Mariam*, Marx's *The German Ideology*, and King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Prerequisites: GRBK 2006, or permission of the instructors.

**GRBK-3406. Philosophy and Art**

This course will explore the relationship between philosophy, or the search for wisdom, and art. In particular, it will examine the relationship of human reason and imagination and the degree to which art can serve as a vehicle for truth. Texts may include Euripides' *Bacchant*, Plato's *Protagoras*, Aristotle's *Poetics*, Book of Revelation, Sidney's *Defence of Poetry*, and Hegel's *Aesthetics*. Prerequisites: GRBK 2006 and GRBK 2106.

**GRBK-3506. Freedom (HMRT 3216)**

This course will examine the nature of freedom in the context of human life and community. Questions to be addressed will include: To what extent are human beings free by nature? Should political communities promote freedom? What might be appropriate limitations on our freedom? Texts may include Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Plato's *Crito*, Aquinas' *On Free Will*, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* and Hegel's *The Philosophy of Right*. Prerequisite: GRBK 2006.

**GRBK-3606. Faith and Reason**

This course will explore faith and reason as two ways by which human beings apprehend the truth, the fundamental object of our understanding. The nature and capacity of faith and reason as well as their relationship to one another will be explored through literary and philosophical texts that posit either one or both of these modes as the path to knowledge. Texts may vary from year to year, but normally the course will include works such as Aeschylus' *Oresteia*, *The Gospel of John*, Descartes' *Discourse on Method*, selections from Luther, and Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Prerequisite: GRBK 2006.

**GRBK-3706. Shakespeare in Renaissance Political Thought (ENGL)**

This course will explore the works of Shakespeare in the context of Renaissance political thought as reflected in his plays and in early modern political texts. We will focus on the plays, although Shakespeare's non-dramatic works may be included, as well as modern film adaptations. Prerequisite: ENGL 1006, or permission of instructor.

**GRBK-3903. Honors Thesis Proposal**

The purpose of this course is to afford students interested in writing an Honours thesis the opportunity to develop a thorough proposal, including a substantial annotated bibliography. Students will work closely with their thesis director in developing and writing the thesis proposal. Classes will meet throughout the term to assess progress. Students will be required

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