# Great Books Curriculum

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# NEW FALL CURRICULUM BENEFIT: A QUESTION OF GOOD AND EVIL

Starting in the fall semester Wright College students will have a brand new opportunity which promises to make their studies more stimulating and meaningful.

It comes as a result of the Great Books Curriculum faculty's decision to co-ordinate the readings in their fall courses to explore the theme *The Question* of Good and Evil. "

The question is rich and complex, and exploring the same question from a variety of perspectives means that work students do in one class will be helpful in another.



*Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* pursuing questions of good and evil

But even more importantly, students will have the joy of discovering just how wide a range of great thought has gone into the problem of what makes something evil, why people we all know, including ourselves, may be tempted to act evilly, and what the consequences of such action can be.

Professor Gans' English 102 class, for example, will explore questions of good and evil in the family, in politics, in business and at work. A list of fall courses and the important authors that will be discussed can be found on page five.

## New Prizes for Outstanding Student Scholarship Initiated by Great Books Faculty

This spring semester's Wright College Awards ceremony will have half a dozen new honorees, students who have written superb papers on Great Books topics in their Great Books Curriculum classes in the past academic year. The students were all nominated by their professors and in addition to receiving awards for excellence, students will have their papers reprinted in a planned scholarly journal dedicated to the Great Books.

The magazine, tentatively entitled

Symposium has a projected publication date of fall 1998. The papers nominated

by Professor Gans concentrated on questions of international politics and war that are explored in *The Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides, the text which was the subject of

Great Books Curriculum News				
Great Books Symposium	2			
Great Books Field Trip	2			
Fall Great Books Curriculum course schedule	4			
How the Great Books Curriculum Works	6			

## Spring Great Books Curriculum Field Trip: The Cherry Orchard by Chekhov

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. the work of Anton Chekhov one of the most important playwrights in history. The Great Books Curriculum is hosting two field trips to the University of Chicago's Court Theater production of The Cherry Orchard. The group going gratis will see the play on Saturday afternoon April 25th at 3 p.m. at 5535 S. Ellis Ave. in Chicago. The other group will see the play on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 May 3rd.



**Anton Chekhov** 

The free tickets will go to students enrolled this semester in Great Books classes who have been nominated by their instructors. Each Great books faculty member has been allotted three free tickets. After learning if their nominees can attend the performance on the 25th instructors will submit their students' names to the Dean. Other students who wish to attend at half price (\$18) may also submit their names to their Great Books instructors who will forward their names to the Dean. Students may pick up their tickets from the Business Office (A138)

## First Annual Great Books Symposium Announced: Panel To Address: Great Books Curricula and Their Critics

Over two thousand years ago Plato, Socrates, Aristophanes and Alcibiades got together for a dinner party that went far into the night in celebration of good fellowship and above all in a supremely stimulating conversation about love. Plato's account of the party became known as *The Symposium* and the name has ever since been conferred on an event where people gather for the fun of learning from each other through discussing an important question.

Hence on Wednesday April 23rd at 6 p.m. in the Wright College Theater, Prof. Bouchard, Prof. Gans,



Prof Virgen and Prof. Upin will convene in a panel to discuss the importance of the Great Books, which some professors question. Students will be invited to listen and also participate.

Next fall's symposium will explore the Great Books semester theme, "Questions of Good and Evil." The goal of the event is to provide a forum for Great Books students to think, to directly experience impassioned inquiry with a high level of civility, to meet other students with similar interests and to enjoy a feeling of intellectual community.

### **Great Books Awards (continued)**

These outstanding scholars are William Woijtas, Michael Fortunato, Garbiela Arcan, Joseph Spisak. Professor Komai-Thompson also nominated three students who wrote outstanding scholarly papers on Ralph Ellison's *The Invisible Man* for her English 102 class. These outstanding students are Maggie Witkowski, Barbara Sherman and Carol Fosse. Professor Styne nominated Sean McClain and Neil Lubomski Brendon Mattson and Jack Wilson.

"These awards have a very special significance," Professor Gans explains. "These scholars demonstrate that Wright College students can do scholarly work that is as proficient and insightful as anyone's. It is vital that our students and the outside community realize this."

Professor Gans concluded, "I

have no doubt a literary collection of student scholarship will win an award and that Wright students will look forward to writing and publishing scholarly papers. Hopefully this will also help students realize that Great Books courses are more fulfilling than they imagine and that the Great Books Curriculum is here for everyone to enjoy. Perhaps it might inspire some students to pursue a career of scholarship in Great

# **AUTHORIZED FOR POSTING**

**Humanities Dept.** Prof. Upin

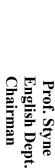


Humanities Dept. Prof. Maurer



Humanities Dept. Prof. Holm





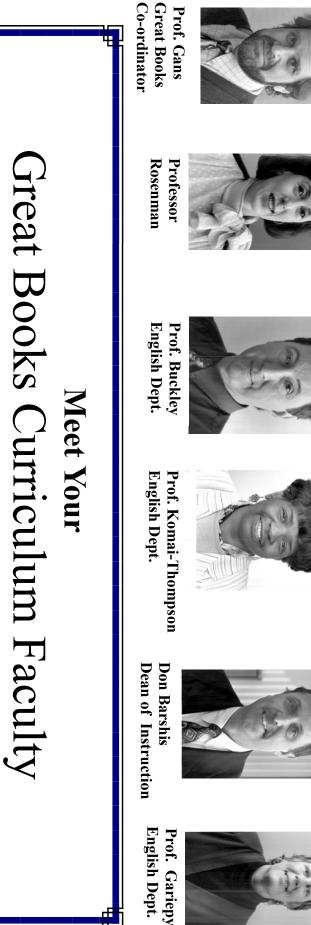
**English Dept.** 











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## Fall 1998 Great Books Curriculum Courses

<b>Professor Buckley</b>	Literature 110 B9	Sophocles, Shakespeare and others to be announced		
Professor Gans	English 102 Sections O9, P9 and R9	Henry James: Washington Square John Stuart Mill: Subjection of Women Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness Ben Jonson: The Alchemist		
Professor Gans	Literature 110 Section Q9	Aeschylus: Prometheus Bound Christopher Marlowe: Tamburlaine Henrik Ibsen: Enemy of the People Joseph Conrad: The Secret Agent Poetry by Shakespeare, Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth, T.S. Eliot etc.		
Professor Gariepy	English 102 Section J9	Nathaniel Hawthorne and Flannery O'Connor		
Professor Rosenman	English 102 Section F9	Homer and Sophocles and others to be announced		
Professor Rosenman	Literature 127 Section E9	W. H. AudenD.H. LawrenceJoseph ConradGeorge Bernard ShawT.S. EliotVirginia WoolfThomas HardyW.B. YeatsJames Joyce		
Professor Styne	Literature 116 Section D9	Frederick DouglassNathaniel HawthorneRalph Waldo EmersonHerman MelvilleThe Federalist PapersHenry David Thoreau		
Professor Virgen	English 102 Sections I9 and M9	Shakespeare: Macbeth, Hamlet, Othello, Richard III		
Professors Holm Professor Maurer Professor Percival et. al.	All Humanities 201 sections	AristotleErasmusSt. AugustineMachiavelliSt. AquinasShakespeareSong of Roland or EverymanChaucer		
Professor Holm Professor Maurer Professor Percival et. al.	All Humanities 202 sections	DarwinGoetheRousseauDescartesMarxVoltaireFreudMoliereWordsworth		
Professor Upin et. al.	Philosophy 106: All sections	DescartesHobbesPlato and othersDostoyevskyMill		

## New Classroom Approach to Learning Planned For Great Books Curriculum Students In Fall

In what may become an ongoing benefit for Great Books students, the Great Books Curriculum faculty has formalized plans to hold some class meetings jointly.

Plans currently call for Professor Buckley of the English Department and Professor Maurer of the Humanities Department to combine their classes on those mornings when they will be studying similar or identical Great Books authors.

Evening students will have a similar educational opportunity when Professor Gans of the English Department and Professor Upin of the Humanities department bring their classes together to discuss Greek drama and John Stuart Mill . Great Books Curriculum Professor

Curriculum Professor Virgen explains, "When I went to college I had several courses that were team taught. I found them especially stimulating because you are exposed to different interesting perspectives and you get the benefits of the strengths of two faculty members, not just one."

# First Annual Great Books Curriculum Contest: Name That Genius



The six people pictured above are all Great Books authors. They will all be taught by different professors in the Great Books Curriculum this fall. Each author is being taught in one course only. All the Great Books Curriculum courses and authors being taught in the fall semester are listed in the chart on page four. The first student to turn in to Professor Gans in Room L 372 the names of these six authors, the courses where each will be taught and who will be teaching the course will receive a hardcover book by one of the authors pictured above or any of the others listed on page four. The student will also be mentioned in the next Great Books Curriculum newsletter.

## Plans for New Student Scholarly Journal Announced by Great Books Curriculum

In an effort to demonstrate to the world, to students themselves and to the Wright College community that Wright students do outstanding and interesting scholarly work, the Great Books Curriculum has made plans to launch this fall a new scholarly magazine consisting entirely of outstanding student scholarship concerning Great Books authors in English, Humanities and Social Science.

The journal is provisionally entitled *Symposium*. As mentioned in the page one story concerning Great Books Curriculum Outstanding Scholarship Awards, manuscripts accepted so far consist of papers written in two research writing classes and one literature class.

In addition, however, papers will be considered through nomination by professors or on a student's initiative. The paper must be typed, concern a great books author, and, if accepted, be submitted on a 3.5 inch floppy for editing to Professor Gans in Room L372.

And you can take advantage of it without spending one extra dime. There is no complicated procedure to go through to be a member.	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.	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.		Great Books Curriculum Wright College 4300 N. Narragansett Chicago, Illinois 60634 773-777-7900
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.	<b>But WaitThere's More!</b> 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.	<b>Miguel Cervantes</b> There are also several practical benefits for you. Great Books courses should 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 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.	Thueydides 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.	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.