

1. Course Information:  
College: College of Liberal Arts  
Department: Department of Classics  
Course Title: Great Books: Classical Beginnings  
Course Designation and Number: CLS 204  
GE Area: IV: Human Expression – Great Books  
VI: College Component

Writing Intensive:  Yes  No

For WI Courses  All Sections  Selected Sections

Methods of Instruction:  Lecture  
 Discussion  
 Web-enhanced  
 Web only  
 Other

Includes Lab:  Yes  No

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives:

GE Program Objectives:

- (all) . . . sharpen critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills
- . . . learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community.
- . . . increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

GE Area Four Objectives:

- (a) recognize and critically discuss significant creative and philosophical works.
- (b) Understand the complex blend of personal vision, social-cultural background, ethical values and aesthetic judgement in such works.
- (c) Discuss the diverse means of communication in such works.

GE Area Six Objectives:

- (a) communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists.
- (b) Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

In “Great Books: Classics,” students will read literature which has survived for a long time for a good reason: it addresses constant human questions, applicable to all times and places. In addition to the inherent value of such study, knowledge of these works initiates the student into that community of educated people who make regular use and allusion to these works.

Area Four learning outcomes addressed:

(all) (a) recognize and critically discuss significant creative and philosophical works, (b) understand the complex blend of personal vision, social-cultural background, ethical values and aesthetic judgement in such works, and (c) discuss the diverse means of communication in such works.

Area Six learning outcomes addressed:

Students will be better able to communicate with individuals who are in the student’s major, in allied fields, and non-specialists, and to understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student’s major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

WAC Objectives: [for both Area IV and Area VI]

- to improve students' writing proficiency - their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling.

Students will have four distinct writing assignments with which to practice their writing proficiency, with feedback on all of them.

- to encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought.

The first three assignments are similar, and students will learn from instructor feedback how to make each better than the previous one. Also, the student is required to make choices, and defend them, thus enhancing the learning process and imposing self-discipline.

- To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines, essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

The course requires a lot of reading of good literature, and this is probably the first necessity for good writing. The subject matter is varied, and potentially germane to many disciplines.



Wk 7: Philosophy. Plato, Myth of Er from The Republic [HM 346-350]; Cicero, Scipio's Dream [HM 147-152]; Cicero, Tusculans [HM 171-176]; and On Duty [HM 193-201]

Wk 8: Philosophy. Epictetus [selections] [HM 407-411]  
Seneca, Medea [HM 309-323]

Wk 9: Philosophy. Epicurus [HM 394-398];  
Lucretius [HM 60-84]  
Quiz #3                      Quote Collection #3 due

Wk 10: Lucan, "Ways of Life for Sale" [HM 419-426]  
Final Paper due.

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy