WHAT IS THE GREAT BOOKS CURRICULUM?

The Great Books include the classical works from the Western Canon and World Culture. The study of Great Books authors will increase your skills in reading, analytical thinking, and cultural literacy – vital skills to your success in upper division college courses, your career, and your personal life.

A Great Books course devotes at least half its readings to works universally distinguished for their timeless beauty and profundity. They include the greatest that have been thought and passed down through the ages. GBC works are thematically linked with other contemporary and multi-cultural authors. Thus, we come to recognize the relevance that ancient works hold for us today, as a society and as individuals.

Great Books authors will change your life! You will become more self-confident and develop the personal pride that comes with an expanded and enriched college experience.

GREAT BOOKS STUDENT SOCIETY
Great Books! Great Ideas! Now more than ever!

This new club on campus is for all students that have an interest in reading and books.

Join the opportunity to share a love of reading and discourse about important ideas.

Great books and great ideas will be the basis of activities and programs. Encompassing literature of all genres including prose, poetry, and drama and works from all major academic disciplines.

We will encourage inquiring minds, promote inquiry and discussion, and enhance literature reading skills.

Join our group on Facebook:
SBCC Great Books Club
bit.ly/SBCCGBSS

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Check us out on Facebook:
Great Books Curriculum SBCC!
And the web: sbcc.edu/greatbooks

The gray spirit yearning in desire
to follow knowledge like a sinking star,
beyond the utmost bound of human thought.
-Tennyson
WHEN I REGISTER FOR CLASSES, HOW DO I LOCATE GREAT BOOKS COURSES?

Great Books (GBC) courses are not designated in the Schedule of Classes. However, GBC courses are listed on the insert to the GBC brochure as well as listed on the GBC website: sbcc.edu/greatbooks. Ask your academic counselor for a GBC recommendation!

Upon successful completion of four GBC courses (12 units) you will receive an English Department award. Please request an application!

HOW DO I ENROLL FOR A GREAT BOOKS COURSE?

Current semester GBC courses are listed on the enclosed insert. You may be surprised to find that a course in which you are planning to enroll already has a “GBC” designation!

DOES A GREAT BOOKS COURSE ADD TO MY WORKLOAD?

No. The reading and writing requirements are the same as for all other SBCC courses. GBC courses are distinguished in that the syllabus thematically links readings from the Core Authors List to contemporary and multicultural authors.

MUST I MAJOR IN ENGLISH IN ORDER TO TAKE A GREAT BOOKS COURSE?

No. The Great Books Curriculum is open to all Santa Barbara City College students. All backgrounds and disciplinary studies are welcome. In addition to English and English Skills, GBC courses are offered in Philosophy, Political Science, and Theatre Arts.

BACKGROUND

The University of Chicago instituted the Great Books Foundation in 1947. The program is noted for the application of the Shared Inquiry Methodology, an approach based on the Socratic method of group discussion. Sixty years later, Great Books programs are found at leading colleges, K-12 schools, and in public reading groups nationwide.

SBCC is one of five colleges selected to develop a Great Books program – “Curriculum” – specifically for community college students.

Additionally, these five institutions have created a national website to share resources, curricula, and bibliographic material. The sister colleges are: Arapahoe College (Littleton, Colorado), Wilbur Wright College (Chicago), Harold Washington College (Chicago), and Oakton College (Chicago). Most recently, Monterey Peninsula College has created its own Great Books program.