

COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE: GREAT BOOKS

YEAR:

COURSE SEMESTER:

DEGREE (S):

MODALITY: ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED

ACADEMIC YEAR:

FACULTY OF

1. COURSE IDENTIFICATION

1. COURSE:

Name: Great Books			
Code: a207			
Year(s):		Semester(s):	
Type:	Obligatory	ECTS: 6	Hours ECTS: 30
Language	English	Modality: On campus	
Degree(s):			
School:			

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

Department: Humanities
Area of knowledge: Theory of Literature and Comparative Literature

2. LECTURES OF THE COURSE

1.- LECTURERES:

RESPONSIBLE OF THE COURSE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Name:	Fernando Ariza González, PhD
Phone:	
Email:	fernando.ariza@ceu.es
Office:	
Teaching Position:	Assistant Professor (<i>Profesor Titular</i>) PhD (Universidad Complutense of Madrid) Number of <i>Sexenios</i> : 1
Fields of Research:	History of edition; Comparative Literature

2. TUTORIALS:

For any queries students can contact lecturers by e-mail, phone or visiting their office during the teacher's tutorial times published on the students' Virtual Campus.

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main objective of Great Books is to offer students a general overview of a number of classic books and of their importance in the evolution of Western culture. The texts are studied not according to their literary or textual value but to the interest they carry both in ideological and anthropological terms. The ideas and main themes developed in those books created important streams of knowledge throughout the centuries and continue to help explain human nature. It is therefore not enough to learn about those ideas. Rather, students are expected to develop their capacity to think in a personal way, to assimilate the concepts at hand, and to create new ones with the help of the tools provided them. Personal contributions, participation in class, and an active attitude in general are highly encouraged.

4. COMPETENCIES

Code	Basic and General Competencies
CB1	Students display the necessary knowledge and understanding of a field of study that is part of general secondary education but is taught by means of advanced textbooks and includes the latest developments.
CB4	Students are capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions both to a specialized and a non-specialized public.

Code	Specific Competencies
C174	Students understand and are capable of reflecting on the basic foundations of Western thought.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Code	Learning Results
RA 167	Students acquire a critical understanding of the great literary works that have helped shape the history of Western civilization from Antiquity to the present day.
RA 168	Students enhance their analytical and synthesis capacity by studying the legacy of thinkers, literary figures, scientists, etc. Students reflect on the ideas that define Western civilization and whose roots are present in the philosophy and poetry of different periods and peoples, which offer explanations of the universe and of human coexistence.

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS' ASSIGNMENT:

Total hours of the course	180
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Code	Name	On-Campus hours
AF1	Lectures	5,4 3%
AF2	Seminars	32,4 18%
AF3	Workshops - Group Seminars - Tutorials	12,6 7%
AF5	Synthesis work	5,4 3%
AF6	Others	3,6 2%
TOTAL Class hours		59,4 33%

Code	Name	Hours outside of class
	Student independent study	120,6 67%

2. DESCRIPTION OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Activity	Description
AF1 Lectures	Formative activity focused on the transmission of knowledge by the professor through oral presentations.
AF2 Seminars	Formative activity in the seminar room that, under the guidance of the professor, encourages student participation in the reasoned interpretation of the knowledge and sources of the field of study.
AF3 Workshops-Group Seminar- Tutorials	Formative activity in the workshop room, preferably aimed at the acquisition of skills for knowledge transmission (MECES Skill 4). Addresses methodological aspects. Prepares students for written and oral communication and the transmission of knowledge.
Synthesis work AF5	Formative activity outside of the room, preferably aimed at the application of knowledge. With the help of the professor, encourages student self-learning and the integration of the knowledge contained in the degree.
Others AF6	

6. ASSESMENT OF LEARNING

1. CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- Class attendance is mandatory in a 75% for students to be placed under the continuous assessment regime. Students can miss up to 25% of the classes without being required to justify their absence.
- 100% attendance at practical classes is required.

2. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

ORDINARY EXAMINATION (Continuous assessment)		
Code	Name	Percentage
S1	Written examination	70
S8	Written works (essays, text commentaries, text analysis, reports, etc.)	10
S16	Oral presentations	20

EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION		
Code	Name	Percentage
S1	Written examination	100

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Assessment Criteria	Description
SE1 Written Examination	Written exam with long questions (essay-like)
SE8 Individual work	Personal work done by the students
SE16 Presentations	Oral presentations done in groups or individually

7. COURSE PROGRAMME

1. COURSE PROGRAMME:

THEORETICAL PROGRAMME

The programme of Great Books is based on the reading, analysis and reflection around a group of works that have had a decisive impact on society throughout the ages both because of the insight they offer into reality and human beings and their aesthetic value. The programme is divided into two parts: the first part looks into the past and seeks to discover in its texts the keys of the period they were created in and the role they have played as generators of a cultural mainstream. The second part focusses on the present, and looks to identify the presence of major universal themes in contemporary works. Particular emphasis is placed on those aspects they contain that are more directly related to Humanities and Communication Studies.

A) The Classic Texts: Founders of Western Culture

- 1- Classical Period I: *Odyssey* (Homer)
- 2- Classical Period II: *Antigone* (Sophocles)
- 3- Medieval Period: *Divine Comedy* (Dante)
- 4- Modern Period I: *Don Quixote* (Cervantes)
- 5- Modern Period II: *Hamlet* (Shakespeare)
- 6- Modern Period III: *Life is a Dream* (Calderón)

This first part consists of different works that are representative of their cultural periods. Two books will be chosen from this list.

B) Contemporary Classics: Rewriting and Updating Universal Themes

7. Ethics of the Human Cloning. *Never let me go*, Kazuo Ishiguro
8. Limits of Science. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson
9. The Spirit of the Human Being. *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
10. Human Limits and Neurosis. *The Royal Game*, Stefan Zweig
11. Animal Humanity. *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
12. Human Nature and Drugs. *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde

Some of the most representative works of contemporary literature will be studied in this second part. There will be a special analysis of the themes related to Humanities and Communication studies.

8. RECOMMENDED READING

1. ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

FOSTER Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Harper Collins: New York, 2014
 MAYS Kelly J. and BOOTH, Alison (eds): *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. New York: Norton, 2010.
 BARNET Sylvan, BURTO William and CAIN William E. *An Introduction to Literature: fiction, poetry, and drama*. New York: Pearson, 2008

2. ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

ALBERT, Edward. *History of English Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000
 BEAM Alex: *A Great Idea at the Time: The Rise, Fall, and Curious Afterlife of the Great Books*. Nueva York: Public Affairs, 2008
 BLOOM Harold: *The Western Canon*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1995
 D'HAEN Theo: *The Routledge Concise History of World Literature*. Routledge: London, 2012
 JAMES PHELAN, James and RABINOWITZ, Peter J.: *Narrative Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005
 KNOX Bernard: *Classical Literature*. New York: Norton, 1995
 SCHMID Wolf (ed) *Narratologia. Contributions to Narrative Theory*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009

3. WEB RESOURCES:

SYLLABI

American Council on Education:

www.greatbooksprogram.org/collegecredit.htm

Columbia (Core Curriculum):

www.college.columbia.edu/core

Georgetown (Liberal Arts Seminar):

www.college.georgetown.edu/persona/prospective/44356.html

Princeton (Interdisciplinary Approaches to Western Culture):

www.princeton.edu/pr/catalog/ua/08/HUM/

University of Chicago (core Curriculum):

<http://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/academics/commoncore.shtml>

Yale (Directed Studies):

www.yale.edu/directedstudies/

COMMUNITIES

National Great Books Curriculum: www.nationalgreatbooks.com
The Great Books List: www.thegreatbookslist.com/
L. Gordon Crovitz. "Lessons From the Great Books Generation", *Wall Street Journal*, 8 December 2008
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122869810925986943.html>

OTHERS

Bartleby's Great Books Online: <http://www.bartleby.com>
Finding Information of the Internet: A Tutorial: <http://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/evaluating-resources>
Bibliografía de Literatura Española: <http://ble.chadwyck.co.uk/>
Literary Criticism on the Internet: <http://www.literaryhistory.com>
Literary Resources Theory: <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/theory.html>

9. ATTITUDE IN THE CLASSROOM

1.- REGULATIONS:

Any irregular act of academic integrity (no reference to cited sources, plagiarism of work or inappropriate use of prohibited information during examinations) or signing the attendance sheet for fellow students not present in class will result in the student not being eligible for continuous assessment and possibly being penalized according to the university regulations.