Requirements

The Great Books interdisciplinary minor consists of eighteen (18) credit hours with one required course. Most courses are three credits.

The minor is designed to provide students with a conceptual framework and historical foundation to help them understand the evolution of ideas within the various disciplines constituting higher learning and to aid them in appreciating interconnections between various fields of knowledge and how these are embedded in the development of specific cultures and societies. For this reason, each student enrolling in the program will be required to complete one, three-hour course during the junior or senior year focusing upon the meaning and value of historical thought.

To understand the present, we must first know how we arrived where we are. Comprehending the nature of historical knowledge will enable students to establish a richer awareness of past social, cultural, and political contexts to enhance their educational experience and achieve the goal of becoming broadly and genuinely educated.

The required Great Books course that can help them accomplish this is Philosophy 4600: Philosophy of History.

The course traces the nature of historical knowledge and the problems of historical inquiry, two issues vital to an accurate assessment of the past and its most important written artifacts. Topics covered include the meaning and value of history, the reality of the past, and historical determinism versus human freedom.

Students may draw the remaining fifteen hours from the following list, with no more than six (6) hours drawn from courses in any one department (except under special circumstances to be determined by the faculty advisor to the minor), until they have fulfilled the required eighteen hours necessary for the minor. A student may take no more than three (3) credit hours toward a minor in the same department or discipline in which he or she is earning a major. No course may be counted for both major and minor credit. Students must meet all departmental prerequisites for any course within the Great Books minor.

Courses

Following is a list of departments that have agreed to sponsor courses in the minor and a listing of probable and possible courses. Whether a course will qualify as a Great Books course during a given semester depends upon whether it is taught according to the guidelines for Great Books courses outlined above. Individual faculty members will determine whether they wish to teach their section of a course as a Great Books course in any particular semester. Courses designated as Great Books courses will be so identified in each semester’s Schedule Book. Some courses may have departmental prerequisites.

English
ENGL 3010 Introduction to English Studies I
ENGL 3020 Introduction to English Studies II
ENGL 3090 19th-Century Women Writers
ENGL 3100 Women Writers of the 20th Century
ENGL 3110 English Literature: The Medieval Period
ENGL 3120 English Literature: The 16th Century
ENGL 3130 English Literature: The 17th Century
ENGL 3210 English Literature: Restoration and 18th Century
ENGL 3220 English Literature: 1790-1850
ENGL 3230 English Literature: The Victorian Period