

# GREAT BOOKS

## Overview

The Area of Concentration in Great Books, an interdisciplinary program spanning multiple fields of study, offers New College of Florida students a timeless education and aims to teach them critical thinking and communication skills through close reading and sustained engagement with some of the most influential texts ever written. A Summer 2023 faculty working group defined “Great Works” (in this case, including both classic texts and masterworks of the visual and performing arts) as follows:

*By “Great Works” we mean those exceptional and enduring products of imagination, ingenuity, and craft whose richness and complexity provoke ever renewed questions (and sometimes answers) about what it means to be human. What makes life worth living? What makes it extraordinary? What do we owe to each other? To ourselves? What should be preserved, what altered? Are there right and wrong, better and worse ways to pursue and answer these questions? To live the lives that these answers promise? “Great works” are generally familiar and foundational, often referenced, imitated, lampooned, debated, and engaged by other works, yet they continue to surprise and seduce each reader/observer who encounters them afresh.*

The Great Books do not belong to any nation, race, or creed, but represent the shared cultural heritage of humankind—the best that has been thought and written over the last three thousand years. Written centuries or even millennia in the past, they still speak to us today, and offer the wisdom of the ages as a guide to the challenges of our contemporary world.

## Affiliated Faculty

David Allen Harvey (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-a-harvey/>), Professor of History (Founding Dean of Great Books program, 2024-25)

Aron Edidin (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/aron-z-edidin/>), (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/aron-z-edidin/>) Professor of Philosophy

David Edwards (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-edwards/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

David Ellis (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-ellis/>), Associate Professor of Political Science

Douglas Estes (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/douglas-estes/>), Associate Professor of Religion

April Flakne (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/april-flakne/>), Professor of Philosophy

Jeffrey Hanson, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Andrew Humphries (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/andrew-g-humphries/>), Assistant Professor of Economics

Richard Izquierdo (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/richard-izquierdo/>), Assistant Professor of Political Science

Fang-yu Li (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/fang-yu-li/>), Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Culture

Alicia Mercado-Harvey (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/alicia-mercado-harvey/>), Assistant Professor of Spanish and History

David Mikics (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-mikics/>), Professor of English

Frederick Pirone (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/frederick-pirone/>), Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Adam Rowe, Assistant Professor of History

Audrey Sprenger (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/audrey-sprenger/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology

Casey Wheatland, Assistant Professor of Political Science

### Requirements for a Primary AOC in Great Books (10 units):

1. Introduction to the Great Books: HUM 2210 and 2230 (2 units)
2. Great Books electives and seminars, may include Gen Ed courses (7 units total)
3. Great Books Research Practicum, to be taken in preparation for thesis research (1 unit)

### Requirements for a Joint AOC including Great Books (7 units):

1. Introduction to the Great Books: HUM 2210 and 2230 (2 units)
2. Great Books electives and seminars, may include Gen Ed courses (5 units total)

Note: Students declaring a Joint AOC may choose to take the Research Practicum and complete a thesis in Great Books, but may also choose to pursue thesis work in the other field represented in their joint concentration.

### Requirements for a Secondary AOC in Great Books (4 units):

1. Introduction to the Great Books: HUM 2210 and 2230 (2 units)
2. Any two additional Great Books courses (2 units)

### Great Books Foundational Courses

Code	Title
HUM 2210	Introduction to the Great Books I: Antiquity to Renaissance
HUM 2230	Introduction to the Great Books II: Renaissance Through Modern Times

Note: the Great Books focused section of the required Civic Literacy course, POS 2041: American Government and Civics, may be counted toward the Great Books AOC. Interested students should be sure to enroll in the Great Books section of POS 2041, as not all sections of the course will meet the AOC requirements.

### Courses Cross-Listed with Great Books (not a complete list)

Code	Title
LIT 2005	Introduction to Literature: What We Talk About When We Talk About Love
LIT 3344	Whodunit? Crime, Corruption, and Terror in Modern Fiction
HIST 3000	Intellectual Origins of the American Revolution

HIST 3025	Modernity and Its Discontents: Great Books and Great Debates on Society, Progress, and Human Nature
HIST 4125	The Enlightenment
REL 2210	Jewish Scriptures
REL 2502	Introduction to Christianity
PHI 2300	Theory of Knowledge
CHT 2124	Modern Chinese Literature and Film
SYA 3018	Social Theory
IDS 2161	What Is a Good Life?
HUM 2541	What Is Truth? What is Reality?
POLS 3410	Classical and Medieval Political Thought
POLS 3415	Early Modern Political Thought