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CURRICULUM

The Curriculum

The College's curriculum is an integrated liberal arts program based primarily on a study of the Great Books. Guided by College faculty, students analyze and discuss in tutorials, seminars, and laboratories these works of the greatest minds of our tradition. By daily practice in reading, translation, demonstration, and argument, students form habits of thought and discourse which will stay with them throughout their lives. And by means of these habits, they can better lay hold of the knowledge and wisdom recorded in the Great Books.

- + Curriculum
- + The degree
- + Great books
- + Socratic method
- + The liberal arts
- + Permanent faculty

Syllabus

The textbooks that most colleges and universities use are soon outdated; they quickly go out of fashion and are discarded. New ways to think about things unceasingly replace the old. Yet a consensus exists among generations of thinkers and writers that certain works have enduring relevance. They never go out of style. Why is this?



Lucretius was a Roman poet and philosopher who 2,000 years ago wrote a treatise called "On the Nature of Things." This title could well describe any of the Great Books. These works - whether philosophy or science, history or drama - describe things as they really are. They reveal the reality at the core of human experience, a reality that - regardless of time or place - does not change. A person hungry for wisdom can return to these books over and over again without exhausting their meaning. These are the books that have the power to shape human events and to change lives.

The following is a list of works read in whole or in part in the College's curriculum. They are not all of equal weight. Some are regarded as masterworks, while others serve as sources of opinions that either lead students to the truth, or make the truth more evident by opposition to it.

Freshman Year

Seminar

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Homer | <i>Iliad, Odyssey</i> |
| Plato | <i>Ion, Republic, Symposium</i> |
| Aeschylus | <i>Agamemnon, Choephoroe, Eumenides</i> |
| Sophocles | <i>Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone</i> |
| Herodotus | <i>Histories</i> |

Aristotle	<i>Poetics, Rhetoric</i>
Plutarch Lives	<i>(Lycurgus, Pericles, Alcibiades, Aristides, Alexander)</i>
Euripides	<i>Hippolytus</i>
Thucydides	<i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>
Aristophanes	<i>The Birds, The Clouds</i>

Language

Wheelock	<i>Latin: An Introductory Course Based on Ancient Authors</i>
Nesfield	<i>Aids to the Study and Composition of English</i>

Mathematics

Euclid	<i>Elements</i>
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Laboratory

Aristotle	<i>Parts of Animals</i>
DeKoninck	<i>The Lifeless World of Biology</i>
Fabre	<i>Souvenirs Entomologiques</i>
Galen	<i>On the Natural Faculties</i>
Harvey	<i>On the Motion of the Heart and Blood, On Animal Generation</i>
Linnaeus	<i>Systema Naturae</i>
Pascal	<i>On the Equilibrium of Liquids</i>
Archimedes	<i>On Floating Bodies</i>
Mendel	<i>Plant Hybridization</i>
<i>various authors</i>	<i>Scientific papers of Driesch, Gould, Marler, Tinbergen, Goethe, Virchow, von Frisch, et alia</i>
	<i>Measurements Manual</i>

Philosophy

Plato	<i>Meno, Protagoras, Gorgias, Apology, Crito, Phaedo</i>
Porphyry	<i>On the Predicaments (Isagoge)</i>
Aristotle	<i>Categories, On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Posterior Analytics, Topics</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>Proem to the Posterior Analytics</i>

Theology

The Holy Bible

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Sophomore Year

Seminar

Vergil	<i>Aeneid</i>
Lucretius	<i>On the Nature of Things</i>

Cicero	<i>Offices</i>
Livy	<i>Ab Urbe Condita</i>
Plutarch	<i>Lives (Marcellus, Tiberius & Caius Gracchus, Marius, Sylla, Caesar, Cato the Younger, Brutus)</i>
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>
Epictetus	<i>Manual</i>
St. Augustine	<i>Confessions, On the Teacher</i>
Boethius	<i>Consolation of Philosophy</i>
Dante	<i>Divine Comedy</i>
Chaucer	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>
Spenser	<i>Faerie Queen</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>On the Teacher</i>

Language

Wheelock	<i>Latin: An Introductory Course Based on Ancient Authors</i>
Martin of Denmark	<i>Tractus De Modis Significandi</i>
Horace, Cicero	<i>Selections</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>Selections Canon of the Mass</i>

Mathematics

Plato	<i>Timaeus</i>
Ptolemy	<i>Almagest</i>
Copernicus	<i>Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres</i>
Apollonius	<i>On Conic Sections</i>
Kepler	<i>Epitome of Copernican Astronomy, Astronomia Nova</i>
Archimedes	<i>On Conoids and Spheroids</i>

Laboratory

Aristotle	<i>On Generation and Corruption</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>On the Principles of Nature, On the Combination of the Elements</i>
Lavoisier	<i>Elements of Chemistry</i>
Avogadro	<i>Masses and Proportions of Elementary Molecules</i>
Dalton	<i>Proportion of Gases in the Atmosphere</i>
Gay-Lussac	<i>Combination of Gaseous Substances</i>
Pascal	<i>Treatise on the Weight of the Mass of the Air</i>
<i>various authors</i>	<i>Scientific papers of Berthollet, Couper, Lavoisier, Mendeleev, Richter, Wollaston, Cannizzaro, et alia Atomic Theory Manual</i>

Philosophy

Pre-Socratic Philosophers	<i>Fragments</i>
Aristotle	<i>Physics</i>





Theology

St. Augustine	<i>On Christian Doctrine, On the Spirit and the Letter, On Nature and Grace, On the Gift of Perseverance, On the Predestination of the Saints, City of God</i>
St. Athanasius	<i>On the Incarnation</i>
Gaunilo	<i>On Behalf of the Fool</i>
St. Anselm	<i>Proslogion, Reply to Gaunilo</i>
St. John Damascene	<i>An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith</i>

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Junior Year

Seminar

Cervantes	<i>Don Quixote</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>On Kingship, Summa Theologiae</i>
Machiavelli	<i>The Prince, Discourses</i>
Bacon	<i>The Great Instauration, Novum Organum</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Julius Caesar, King Richard the Second, King Henry the Fourth: Part One, Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, Macbeth, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, Sonnets</i>
Montaigne	<i>Essays</i>
Descartes	<i>Discourse on Method, Meditations, Rules for the Direction of the Mind</i>
Pascal	<i>Pensées</i>
Hobbes	<i>Leviathan</i>
Locke	<i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Second Essay on Civil Government</i>
Berkeley	<i>Treatise Concerning Human Understanding</i>
Hume	<i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
Swift	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
Milton	<i>Paradise Lost</i>
Gibbon	<i>Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i>
Corneille	<i>Le Cid</i>
Racine	<i>Phaedre</i>
Rousseau	<i>Social Contract, Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i>
Spinoza	<i>Theologico-Political Treatise</i>
<i>various authors</i>	<i>Articles of Confederation</i>
	<i>Declaration of Independence</i>
	<i>U.S. Constitution</i>
Hamilton, Madison, Jay	<i>Federalist Papers</i>
Smith	<i>Wealth of Nations</i>

Kant *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Critique of Pure Reason, Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

Leibniz *Discourse on Metaphysics*

Music

Plato *Timaeus*

Boethius *On Music*

Mozart *Sonatas*

Gustin *Tonality*

Mathematics

Viète *Standard Enumeration of Geometric Results, Introduction to the Analytic Art*

Descartes *Geometry*

Archimedes *Quadrature of the Parabola*

Griffin *Mathematical Analysis*

various authors *Mathematical works of Hippocrates, Archimedes, Cavalieri, Pascal, Leibniz, Bernoulli, Newton, Berkeley, Bolzano, et alia*

Laboratory

Descartes *Principles of Philosophy*

Galileo *Two New Sciences*

Newton *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*

Philosophy

Aristotle *Nicom. Ethics
Politics*

Theology

St. Thomas Aquinas *Summa Theologiae:*

*On Sacred Doctrine
On God
On Law*



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Senior Year

Seminar

Tolstoy *War and Peace*

Goethe *Faust*

Hegel *Phenomenology of Mind, Philosophy of History*

Flaubert *Three Tales*

Feuerbach	<i>Essence of Christianity</i>
J. S. Mill	<i>Utilitarianism</i>
Marx	<i>Capital, Communist Manifesto, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, German Ideology</i>
Melville	<i>Billy Budd</i>
Willa Cather	<i>My Antonia</i>
Engels	<i>Quantity and Quality, Negation of the Negation</i>
Darwin	<i>Origin of Species</i>
Nietzsche	<i>Beyond Good and Evil, Use and Abuse of History</i>
Twain	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>
Austen	<i>Emma</i>
Freud	<i>General Introduction to Psychoanalysis</i>
Jung	<i>Analytical Psychology</i>
Newman	<i>Development of Christian Doctrine</i>
Kierkegaard	<i>Fear and Trembling, Philosophical Fragments</i>
Ibsen	<i>A Doll's House</i>
Dostoyevski	<i>Brothers Karamazov</i>
Eliot	<i>Ash Wednesday, Journey of the Magi, The Waste Land</i>
St. Pius X	<i>Pascendi Dominici Gregis</i>
Leo XIII	<i>Aeterni Patris, Rerum Novarum</i>
Pius XI	<i>Quadragesimo Anno</i>
Pius XII	<i>Humani Generis</i>
Vatican II	<i>Lumen Gentium</i>
Plato	<i>Phaedrus</i>
Vico	<i>The New Science</i>
Tocqueville	<i>Democracy in America, The Old Regime and the French Revolution</i>
Husserl	<i>The Idea of Phenomenology</i>
Lincoln and Douglas	<i>Debates</i>
Flannery O'Connor	<i>A Good Man is Hard to Find, The Enduring Chill</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>The Division and Method of the Sciences</i>

Mathematics

Pascal	<i>Generation of Conic Sections</i>
Taylor	<i>Integral Calculus</i>
Dedekind	<i>Essay on the Theory of Numbers</i>
Lobachevski	<i>Geometrical Researches on the Theory of Parallels</i>

Laboratory

Einstein	<i>Relativity: The Special and General Theory</i>
Huygens	<i>Treatise on Light</i>
Newton	<i>Optiks</i>
Maxwell	<i>A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism</i>
Gilbert	<i>De Magnete</i>
Ampere	<i>Papers</i>

various authors *Mechanics, Waves, and Optics Manual*
Electricity and Magnetism Manual

Philosophy

Aristotle *Physics, Metaphysics*
St. Thomas
Aquinas *On Being and Essence*

Theology

St. Thomas *Summa Theologiae: On the Trinity, On the*
Aquinas *Sacraments, On the Passion of Christ*

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Freshman Texts

Math

Euclid, *Elements*

Green Lion Edition - \$29.95

Three Volume Dover Edition with Notes by Thomas Heath - \$46.49

Ptolemy, *Almagest*

Toomer Translation, Princeton University Press (\$75.00)

Perry Translation, Books 1&3, Produced privately by St. John's College (\$19.90)

Laboratory

Harvey, *On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals* (Prometheus - \$15.95)

Lavoisier, *Elements of Chemistry* (Dover - \$19.95)

Sophomore Texts

Math

Ptolemy, *Almagest*

Toomer Translation (edition used in Freshman year)

Perry Translation, Books 7-13, Produced privately by St. John's College - \$10.95

Copernicus, *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres* (Running Press - \$14.95)

Kepler, *Epitome of Copernican Astronomy & Harmonies of the World* (Prometheus - \$15.95)

Kepler, *Selections from Kepler's Astronomia Nova* (Green Lion - \$9.95)

Apollonius, *Conics: Books I-III* (Green Lion - \$23.95)

Viete, *Introduction to the Analytic Art: Selections from The Analytic Art* (Produced privately by St. John's College - \$10.50)

Descartes, *Geometry* (Dover - \$9.95)

Junior Texts

Math

Galileo, *Two New Sciences* (Wall & Emerson - \$35.00)

Newton, *Principia*

Cohen Translation, University of California - \$50.00
Densmore Translation (Selections), Green Lion Press - \$37.95
Motte Translation, Prometheus - \$19.00
Dedekind, *Essays on the Theory of Numbers* (Dover - \$8.95)

Laboratory

Galileo, *Two New Sciences* (Wall & Emerson - \$35.00)
Newton, *Principia*
Cohen Translation, University of California - \$50.00
Densmore Translation (Selections), Green Lion Press - \$37.95
Motte Translation, Prometheus - \$19.00

Maxwell, *Maxwell on the Electromagnetic Field: A Guided Study* (Rutgers University Press - \$29.95)

Senior Texts

Math

Lobachevski, *Theory of Parallels* (Produced privately by St. John's College - \$4.00)
Einstein, *Relativity: The Special and the General Theory* (Random House - \$8.95)
Einstein, *Principle of Relativity* (Dover - \$8.95)

Laboratory

Darwin, *On the Origin of Species (First Edition)* (Penguin - \$12.00)
Mendel, *Experiments with Plant Hybrids* (Produced privately by St. John's College - \$5.00)

Freshman Manuals

Laboratory

Observing Living Beings (\$25.50)

Theophrastus, *An Inquiry Concerning Plants*

Aristotle, *Parts of Animals*

On the Soul

Galen, *On Anatomical Procedures*

Rudolph Virchow, *Cellular Pathology lectures*

Hans Driesch, *The Science and Philosophy of the Organism*

Hans Spemann, *Embryonic Development and Induction*

Erwin W. Straus, "The Upright Posture"

Goethe, *The Metamorphosis of Plants*

Measurement and Equilibrium (\$24.50)

Aristotle, *Categories*

Archimedes, *On the Equilibrium of Planes*

On Floating bodies

Pascal, *On the Equilibrium of Liquids*

On the Weight of the Mass of the Air

Conclusion of the Two Treatises

Perier, Letter to Pascal

Mariotte, *Relations of Pressure and Volume of Air*

Black, *Elements of Chemistry*

Guy-Lussac, *On the Expansion of Gases and Vapors*

Constitution of Bodies (\$19.25)

Dalton, *A New System of Chemical Philosophy*

Thomson, *System of Chemistry*

Gay-Lussac, *Memoire on the Combination of Gaseous Substances with Each Other*

Avogadro, *Essay on a Manner of Determining the Relative Masses of the Elementary Particles of Bodies*

Cannizzaro, *Letter to Professor S. De Luca*

Mendeleev, *The Periodic Law of the Chemical Elements*

Berthollet, Proust, *On Definite Proportions*

Junior Manuals

Math

Readings for Junior Mathematics (\$19.80)

Leibniz, *Readings from Leibniz's Mathematical Writings*

Including:

- An Approach to the Arithmetic of Infinites
- A New Method
- On Recondite Geometry and the Analysis of Indivisibles and Infinites
- On the True Proportion of a Circle to a Circumscribed Square
- A Brief Demonstration of a Remarkable Error of Descartes
- On the Isochronic Line
- An undated manuscript on the isochronic line
- On the Line in which a Heavy Body Bends by its own Weight
- A Solution of the Problem in which a Chain or Rope Bends under its own Weight
- Aristotle, *Physics* (Selection on Zeno's paradoxes)
- Aristotle, *Mechanical Problems* (On "Aristotle's Wheel")
- Bergson, *Creative Evolution*
- Bergson, *Matter and Memory*
- Archimedes, *Measurement of a Circle*, Proposition 1
- Newton, *Treatise On the Quadrature of Curves*
- Leibniz, On the fundamental principles of the calculus
- Berkeley, *The Analyst*

Comments on Leibniz's Mathematical Writings (\$29.90)

Explanatory notes and comments on Leibniz's Mathematical writings (found in *Readings for Junior Mathematics*).

Laboratory

Mechanics (\$35.00)

- Descartes, *Le Monde*
- Huygens, *On the Motion of Colliding bodies*
- Leibniz, "On Body, Force, Elasticity"
"Essay on Dynamics"
- Newton, "Principia"
- Mayer, "Remarks on The Forces of Inorganic Nature"
- Maxwell, "On Work and Energy"
"On Heat Engines"
- Huygens, *Treatise on Light*
- Newton, "The New Theory about Light and Colors"
- Young, "On the Nature of Light and Colors"
- Taylor, "On the Motion of the Stretched String"
- Bernoulli, "...On New Vibrations of Strings"

Electricity and Magnetism (\$27.95)

William Gilbert, *On the Loadstone*

Charles du Fay, letter concerning Electricity

Benjamin Franklin, letter to Collinson

J.A. Nollet, "Observations on Several New Electrical Phenomena"

Chales Coulomb, "Memoirs on electricity and magnetism"

Alessandra Volta, "On the electricity excited by the contact of conducting substances"

Hans Christian Oersted, "The efficacy of electric conflict on the magnetic needle"

Faraday, *Experimental Researches in Electricity*

On Static Electrical Inductive Action, Letter to Philips

Answer to Dr. Hare's Letter

A speculation touching Electric Conduction and the Nature of Matter

On Lines of Magnetic Force

On the Physical Character of the Lines of Magnetic Force

(Note: There may be selections from other texts not listed in the table of contents)

Notes to Maxwell's Papers (\$25.60)

Collection of writings and notes by St. John's Tutors to accompany *Maxwell on the Electromagnetic Field: A Guided Study* by James Clerk Maxwell and Thomas K. Simpson.

Senior Manuals

Math

Non-Euclidean Geometry (\$24.50)

Collection of notes and readings by St. John's Tutors and other authors to accompany and build upon the study of Lobachevski's *Theory of Parallels*.

Including:

The Hjelmslev Transformation

Ultra-parallel lines

Horocycles

The Horosphere and Its Geometry

Excerpts from Gauss's Letters

Selections from David Hilbert's *The Foundations of Geometry*

Readings in the Theory of Relativity (\$17.00)

Albert Einstein, "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies"

"Does the inertia of a Body Depend upon its Energy Content?"

"On the Influence of Gravitation on the Propagation of Light"

"The Foundation of the General Theory of Relativity"

Hermann Minkowski, "Space and Time"

Notes to Readings in the Theory of Relativity (\$18.00)

Collection of notes and readings by St. John's Tutors to accompany *Readings in the Theory of Relativity*.

Laboratory

Atoms and Measurement (\$35.00)

Faraday, "On the absolute quantity of Electricity associated with the particles or atom of Matter"

J.J. Thomson, "Cathode Rays"

R.A. Milliken, *The Electron*

E. Rutherford, "The Scattering of α and β particles by matter and the Structure of the Atom"

A. Einstein, "Concerning a Heuristic Point of View about the Creation and Transformation of Light"

N. Bohr, "On the Spectrum of Hydrogen"

L. De Broglie, "The Undulatory Aspects of the Electron"

E. Schrodinger, *Four Lectures on Wave Mechanics*

C.J. Davisson, "Are Electrons Waves?"

W. Heisenberg, *The Physical Principles of the Quantum Theory*
Physics and Philosophy

N. Bohr, "Einstein's Objections to Quantum Mechanics"

A. Einstein, B. Podolsky, N. Rosen, "Can Quantum-Mechanical Description of Physical Reality be Considered Complete?"

N. Bohr, "Can Quantum-Mechanical Description of Physical Reality be Considered Complete?"

D. Bohm, *Causality and Chance in Modern Physics*

Genetics and Evolution

G.H. Hardy, *Mendelian Proportions in a Mixed Population*

S.S. Chetverikov, *On Certain Aspects of the Evolutionary Process From the Standpoint of Modern Genetics*

Theodor Boveri, *On Multipolar Mitosis as a Means of Analysis of the Cell Nucleus*

Walter S. Sutton, *The Chromosomes in Heredity*

T.H. Morgan, *Sex Limited Inheritance in Drosophila*

A.H. Sturtevant, *The Linear Arrangement of Six Sex-Linked Factors in Drosophila as Shown by Their Mode of Association*

G.W. Beadle, *Genes and the Chemistry of the Organism*

G.W. Beadle and E.L. Tatum, *Genetic Control of Biochemical Reactions in Neurospora*

F.H.C. Crick, *The Structure of the Hereditary Material*

On Protein Synthesis

F. Jacob and J. Monod, *Genetic Regulatory Mechanisms in the Synthesis of Proteins*

Gregor Mendel, *Experiments with Plant Hybrids*