



## OUR STUDENTS

Great Books students represent diverse majors, interests, cultures, and ideologies. Many travel the world through Pepperdine's international programs. They return ready to dive back into the colloquium with cultured, curious, and courageous minds. They are passionate thinkers, artists, scientists, writers, speakers, and seekers of truth, united by a love for Great Books and great ideas. Our students forge great friendships through in-class dialogues, service learning, and a multitude of extra-curricular events.

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“Great Books has been the most enlightening educational experience of my life. The ideas and questions that are discussed have deepened my morals and values profoundly and i know they will impact my entire life.”

— Paul Bommarito, Student

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“Our class discussions create immeasurable bonds between classmates and also with the professor. Great Books is one of the strongest families on Pepperdine's campus and I am honored to be a member of the colloquium.”

— Marissa Baly, Student

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“Great Books is not a chance to validate one's own opinions or prove another's wrong, but rather an opportunity to listen, contemplate and grow through the cultivation of intellectual friendship. Just do it! You will thank yourself later on.”

— Jared Taylor , Student

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## LEARN MORE

If you are interested in participating in the Great Books Colloquium, please select it as your first choice when you are contacted about your first-year seminar preferences.

We invite you to visit our website and connect with us on social media.

 [seaver.pepperdine.edu/humanities/student-opportunities/greatbooks](http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/humanities/student-opportunities/greatbooks)

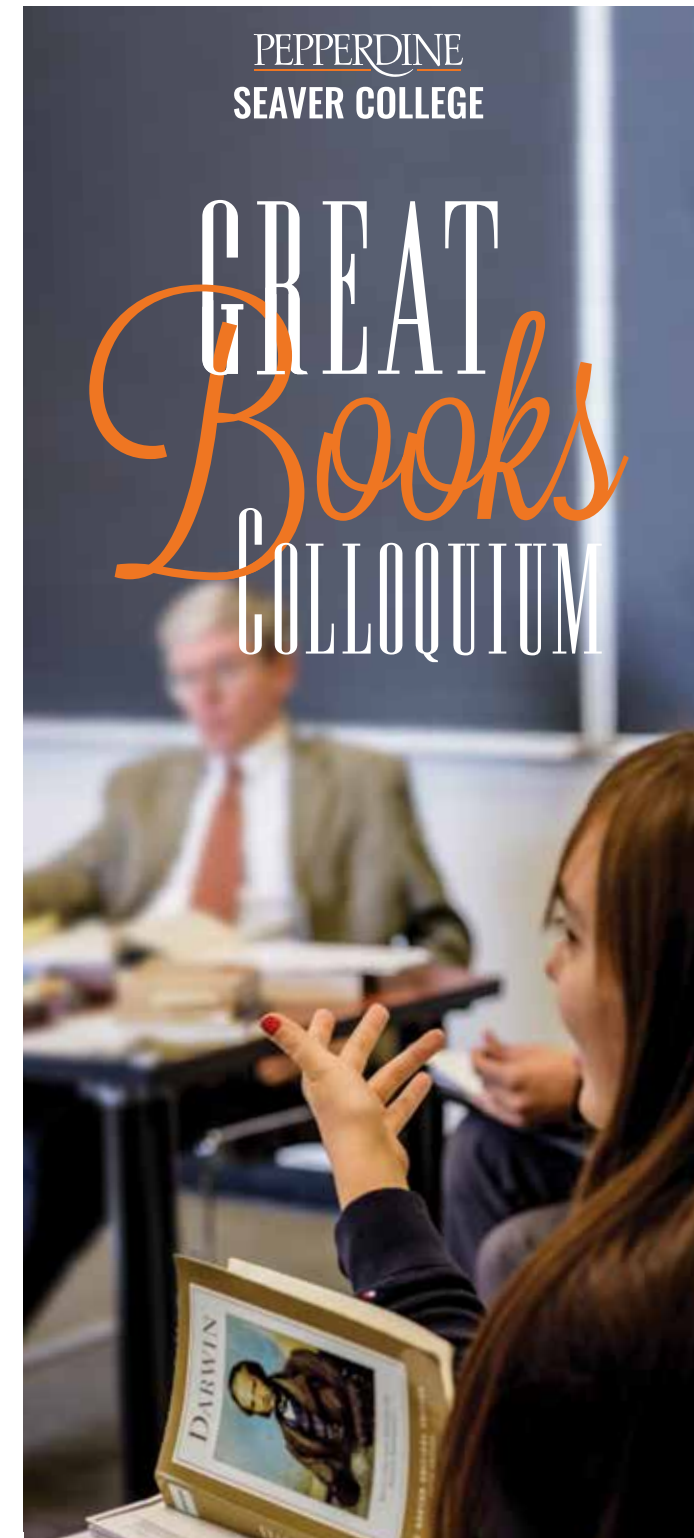
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 [youtube.com/user/greatbookspepperdine](https://youtube.com/user/greatbookspepperdine)

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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## WHAT IS THE GREAT BOOKS COLLOQUIUM?

Founded in 1985, The Great Books Colloquium is a series of four courses in which students read and discuss some of the most influential, thought-provoking books ever written.

Exploring texts ranging from ancient Greece to the present day, students learn to think insightfully about perennial human questions posed by authors like Plato, Dante, and Dostoevsky. Students learn to read, write, and discuss the great ideas found in the greatest works in Western Thought from the last three millennia. Students gain the courage to wrestle with such ideas as beauty, being, desire, duty, good and evil, justice, liberty, prudence, sin, soul, truth, will, and wisdom. Our program is based on the 1952 work of Adler and Hutchins at the University of Chicago, as currently sustained by the Great Books Foundation. The books we read are comic, tragic, profound, and unsettling. These works call upon our truer and better selves and challenge us to reimagine the world and our place in it. Our thirty years of Great Books alumni report that it is a priceless, transformative experience that they still treasure.

## THE GREAT BOOKS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

### Required Courses

- Great Books I: Classical Period
- Great Books II: Early Christianity to Renaissance
- Great Books III: Enlightenment Period
- Great Books IV: 19th Century to Present

*Students who complete all four Great Books courses fulfill five general education requirements and receive credit for:*

- First-year seminar
- Two courses of their choice from Group A: ENG 101, upper-division literature, and one course in the Humanities Sequence (HUM I, II, or III); and
- Two courses of their choice from Group B: REL 301, COM 180, POSC 104, and SOC 200

*Great Books V is an elective course focused on the Great Books of Asia. It may be taken in addition to Great Books I-IV to meet the general education requirement in World Civilizations.*

## FACULTY AND METHODS

The teachers in each Great Books class are the set of authors of the texts under consideration. Across the four courses, we engage with complete works by the following authors:

- I: Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Virgil, Euripides, Aeschylus, & Sophocles
- II: Augustine, Dante, Boethius, Machiavelli, Shakespeare, & Luther
- III: Descartes, Milton, Kant, Locke, Voltaire, Shelley, & Emerson
- IV: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Darwin, Dickens, Wolff, & Angelou

Great Books courses are taught using the shared inquiry method. This means that colloquium professors do not lecture. Instead they ask questions to guide conversation and stimulate critical, creative thinking in their students. In classes limited to 16, students learn to analyze and evaluate the ideas presented in a text in an ongoing dialogue that often spills over into lunch in the Caf and late-night chats in the residence halls. Students learn to think on their feet as they acquire the skills of clear written and oral communication, leadership, collaboration, and creative problem solving—the very skills employers and graduate programs seek.

Great Books professors are thoughtful scholars and award-winning teachers from a variety of different disciplines. They are always available to meet with students outside of the classroom. Our professors care deeply about the success of their students, not just in their education at Pepperdine, but in the rest of life as well.

*Current Faculty: Drs. Cyndia Clegg, Paul Contino, Michael Gose, Tuan Hoang, Frank Novak, Jane Kelley Rodeheffer, & Don Thompson.*

