

Remote Learning Packet

There is no need to submit this packet at the end of the week. Enjoy your summer break!

Week 9: May 25-29, 2020

Course: 11 Humane Letters

Teacher(s): Mr. Brandolini david.brandolini@greatheartsirving.org

Mr. Mercer andrew.mercer@greatheartsirving.org

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day (no school)

“But the man who can most truly be accounted brave is he who best knows the meaning of what is sweet in life and of what is terrible, and then goes out undeterred to meet what is to come.”

Pericles, in Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War II.40

Tuesday, May 26 - Wednesday, May 27

Prepare for our final seminar by writing down your thoughts on the following questions. The questions are broad, and intended to help start our discussion of the thinkers in more detail:

1. How has your understanding of what it means to be human been shaped or challenged by this year’s reading and discussion?
2. What was the most difficult philosophical or theological issue we encountered this year?
3. Which of the books or authors we read drew out your intellectual curiosity the most and why?
4. Reflect back on 2-3 thinkers that left the biggest impression on you and try to briefly account for their philosophies on the tension between man’s own freewill, the intentions of the divine, and Fate itself. Some possible questions to think on here: do any authors despair of man’s agency entirely? Do some clearly see divine will and that of fate to be different or at odds?
5. Based on our readings this year, do we have a sense of what it means to practice a virtuous public/social life? In the affairs of men, how and where is virtue incentivized? What drives men to value justice over injustice?
6. How do different authors agree or disagree over the issue of whether man is innately good/virtuous or vicious?

7. Many of the works this year reflected on suffering, either external or internal, and sometimes both. What are the causes of suffering? What value does suffering have? Have these works caused you to think about challenges/suffering in life any differently?

*A small portion of the seminar will be set aside to allow you to present the results of your junior thesis. If you would like to volunteer to present, please notify your teaching via email at least one day before the seminar. Your brief presentation could be either a summary of what you wrote, your thoughts on a particular idea that you addressed, or simply reading a selection (not the entire essay) from your thesis.

Thursday, May 28

Joyfully and thoughtfully participate in the last seminar of the year.

Friday, May 29

To think back on what we've achieved this year is truly incredible. In one year alone, you have put all of Homer, six Platonic dialogues, five tragedies, and numerous other historical and philosophical excerpts under your belts. You have begun to enter into an incredibly profound conversation, one that has been on-going for millennia and continues through this day; hold on to this lineage of ideas, and revisit them often in the years to come. The wisdom of the ancients is a comfort that ages like a fine wine.

Have a wonderful summer!