

Academy for Classical Teachers

Summer Professional Development for Classical Liberal Arts Teachers



2020

Academy for Classical Teachers

The Academy for Classical Teachers partners with the [Institute for Classical Education](#) to offer in-person and online seminars and courses within the classical liberal arts tradition.

If you are a certified teacher, course hours may be applicable toward required professional development clock hours for recertification.

ACT Summer Courses

Seminars

Plato's *Republic* (San Antonio and Phoenix)

Homer's *Illiad* (Phoenix)

Online Courses:

Logic

Euclidean Geometry

Philosophy of Education: Classical Sources

Institute for Classical Education: Symposium Follow Up

Questions? Reach out to PD@GreatHeartsAmerica.org

GreatHearts

4801 E. Washington Street, Suite 250
Phoenix, AZ 85034
www.greatheartsamerica.org

2020 In-Person Seminars

Each year, the Academy for Classical Teachers offers leisurely summer seminars around classic philosophical and literary texts. This year, we are pleased to present in-person seminars on both Plato's *Republic* and Homer's *Illiad*.

Cost: \$125



Plato's *Republic*

Veritas Prep
Phoenix, AZ

July 13-29
Mon. & Wed.
9am-11am

San Antonio, TX

July 13-29, TBA

Plato's *Republic* is without question one of the most important and influential books ever written, and it is difficult to understand Western civilization without engaging with *The Republic*. It is beautifully written, very accessible, and it is a joy to read and discuss this book. This summer, members of the community will have a special opportunity for an in-depth complete reading and 3-week series of Socratic seminar discussions on this seminal book.

Text: *The Republic of Plato*, translated by Allan Bloom. Basic Books edition, 1991. (No other translation should be used for this seminar.)

Phoenix Leader: Benjamin Dickerson, *Humane Letters Teacher, Glendale Preparatory Academy*

San Antonio Leader: Andrew Ellison, *Executive Director, Great Hearts Texas*

Homer's *Illiad*

Veritas Prep
Phoenix, AZ

July 13-29
Tues. & Thurs.
2pm - 4pm

Fear, courage, rage, love, selfishness, and greatness of heart are just some of the ingredients of Homer's epic. Why has this, the West's first song, sounded throughout all generations? From its origins as an oral poem to scroll, codex, and eventually print, Homer's *Illiad* feeds our hearts and enlarges our understanding of what it means to be alive and human. Enjoy a lively seminar as we feast on the epic poem that started it all. Join the great Achilles and wise Odysseus as they sack Troy, revealing the spoils of Ancient Greece and showing that there is no new thing under the sun.

Text: *The Illiad*, Translation by Robert Fagles, Penguin ISBN 9780140275360

Leader: John Paul Poppleton, *Headmaster, Chandler Preparatory Academy*

In addition to seminars on philosophy and literature, the Academy for Classical Teachers hosts online summer courses led by master classical teachers and scholars with topics pulled from educational philosophy, the Trivium, the Quadrivium, and the Institute for Classical Education's annual Symposium. Courses meet virtually 2-3 times each week in 2-hour time slots and include interactive elements and resources accessed between sessions.

Cost: \$125

July 13-22
Mon., Wed., Fri
9am-11am

Philosophy of Education: Ancient Sources

A natural tension exists within the liberal arts, between those who promote the rhetorical tradition of imitation of the masters and those who pursue the philosophical tradition of dialogical inquiry, à la Socrates. From ancient times to the present day, training in the liberal arts has tended to emphasize one of these two traditions, sometimes at the expense of its counterweight. This course will survey the history of the liberal arts through the lenses of oratory and philosophy. As part of a three-year series through the Academy for Classical Teachers, this summer will focus primarily on ancient sources, drawing substantially on source materials from Bruce Kimball's *Orators and Philosophers*. As we gain familiarity with primary sources, we will examine the tension that naturally develops between oratory and philosophy, in order to define the full spectrum of the liberal arts: from the philosophical pursuit of truth to the promotion of good persons speaking well.

Leader: Dr. Robert Jackson, *Chief Academic Officer and Founding Director of the Institute for Classical Education*

Reference: Kimball, Bruce. *Orators and Philosophers: A History of the Idea of Liberal Education*. New York: Teacher's College, Columbia University, 1986: 293 pages.



Dates **TBA**
July 13-29

Thucydides's Education in Virtuous Leadership

In the opening of his great work examining the Peloponnesian War, Thucydides explains that his labors are intended for future readers "wishing to observe what is clear according to the human... for what is past is a neighbor to what will be." He is famous for debunking our delusions about nobility and justice, for explaining away the gods as fictions useful for social order, and for finally showing how everything comes down to one thing alone: power. In this course, we will indeed consider passages that reveal this side of Thucydides, but there is another side to him. Unlike our great idealists, Thucydides does not seek to cultivate virtue by pretending to live in the world that we want. Rather, he shows us the world as it is and nevertheless finds the subtle and all-too-often overlooked evidence that nobility and justice are real, that the divine may intervene to punish the unjust, and that the prudent leader appreciates not only the efficacy of force, fraud, and violence, but also the strength of real virtue and piety. In other words, Thucydides seeks to educate us to become virtuous adults, people who know how to fight as well as what is worth fighting for.

Leader: Dr. Matthew Post, *Braniff Graduate School Assistant Dean, University of Dallas*

Dates **TBA**
July 13-29

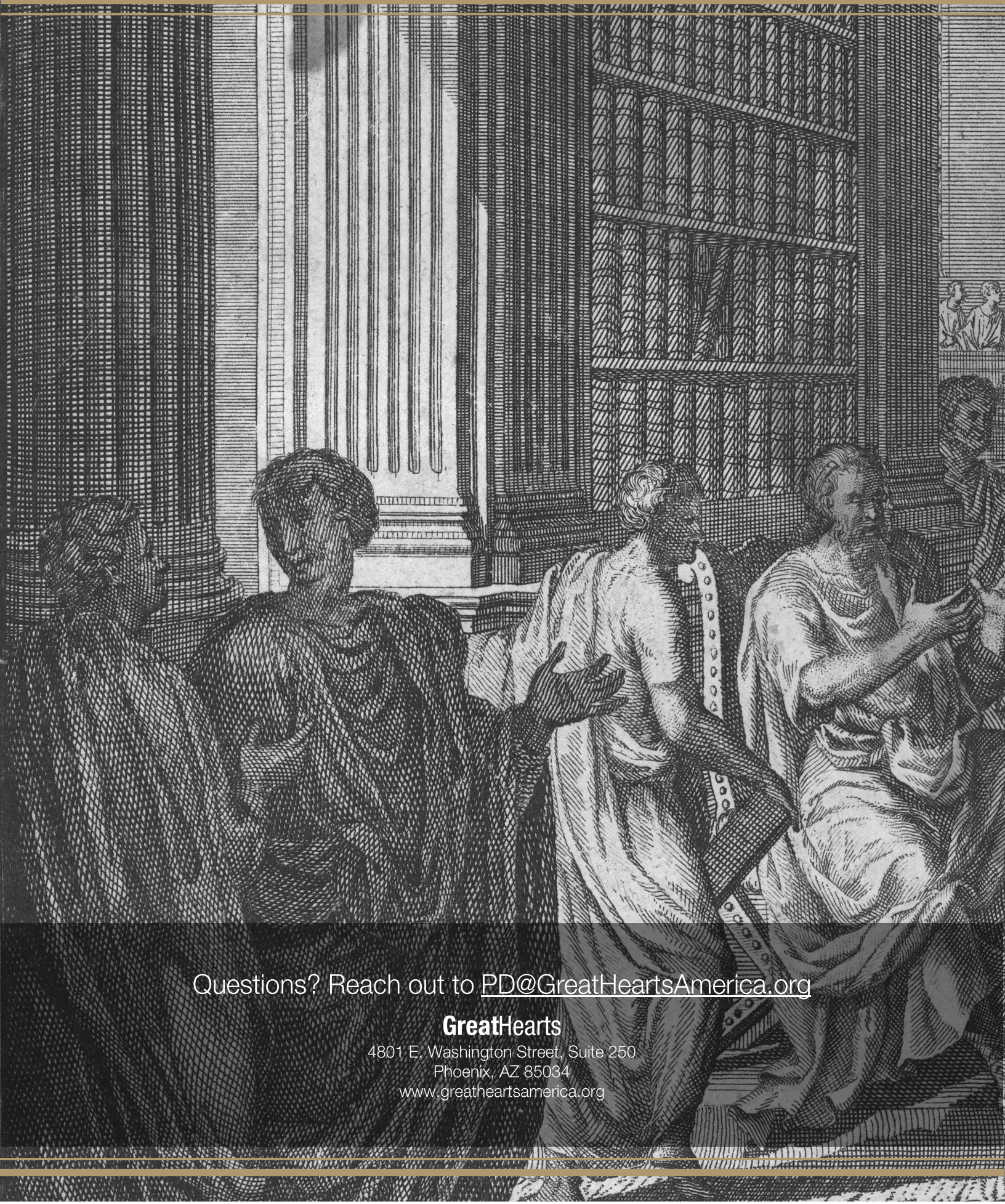
Trivium: Logic

The Trivium (Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric) are the tools by which we learn to speak and think—regardless of discipline or grade level. Logic teaches us how to discover and determine truth and lays important foundations for the proper use of rhetoric as not merely the art of convincing others, but the art of convincing others of truth. Working from Aristotle's *Prior and Posterior Analytics* and other selected readings, this course will distinguish between formal logic and material logic. Learn basic terms, propositions, syllogisms, and fallacies—as well as how to evaluate and produce truth tables and truth trees.

Dates **TBA**
July 13-29

Quadrivium: Euclidean Geometry

Euclid's *Elements*, a text over two thousand years old and a stalwart of a traditional classical education, is still used in high school geometry today. This course is designed to lead classical teachers of all disciplines and grade levels through the first book of Euclid's *Elements* in an exploration of basic triangular geometry, culminating in the proof of the Pythagorean Theorem. Join us for a three-week exercise in authentic mathematics using an original source whose elegance and thoroughness have placed it at the foundation of a classical education for centuries.



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