

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 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

Online Seminars

Plato's *Republic* (June and July Offerings)

Homer's *Iliad* (July)

Online Courses:

Philosophy of Education: Classical Sources

Symposium Follow Up: Thucydides' Education in Virtuous Leadership

The Enigma of Health: Natural Science and the Ensouled Body

Quadrivium: Euclidean Geometry

Questions? Reach out to pweinhhold@greatheartsamerica.org

GreatHearts

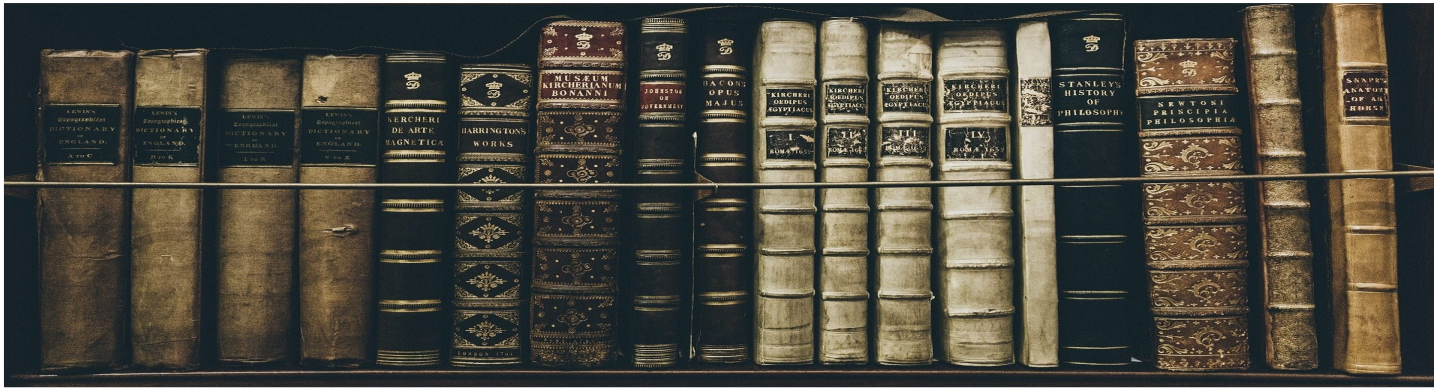
4801 E. Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85034

www.greatheartsamerica.org

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

Cost: \$125



Plato's *Republic* (June and July Offerings)

June Seminar

June 8-26
Tues. & Thurs.
6 - 7:30 pm (CST)
4 - 5:30 pm (AZ)

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.)

July Seminar

July 13-29
Mon. & Wed.
9 - 11:00 am (AZ)
11am - 1pm (CST)

June Leader: Andrew Ellison, Executive Director, Great Hearts Texas

July Leader: Benjamin Dickerson, Humane Letters Teacher, Glendale Preparatory Academy

Homer's *Iliad*

July Seminar

July 13-30
Tues. & Thurs.
2pm - 4pm (AZ)
4pm - 6pm (CST)

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 *Iliad* 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 Iliad*, Translation by Robert Fagles, Penguin ISBN 9780140275360

Leader: John Paul Poppleton, Headmaster, Chandler Preparatory Academy

Register for classes at <https://greatheartsaz.configio.com/pd/3464>

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

Online

July 13-22

Mon. Wed. & Fri.

9am - 11am (AZ)

11am - 1pm (CST)

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.

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

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



Online

July 13-30

Mon. & Thurs.

1pm - 3pm (CST)

11am - 1pm (AZ)

Symposium Follow Up: Thucydides' 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.

Text: *The Landmark Thucydides*. ISBN: 978-1416590873

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

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

Online

July 14-30

Tues. & Thurs.

2pm - 4pm (AZ)

4pm - 6pm (CST)

The Enigma of Health: Natural Science and the Ensouled Body

In these strange times in which the question of health has been brought so far into the foreground, it is remarkable to think that at the very origins of modern science Descartes could declare that the ultimate aim of his philosophy "was principally the maintenance of health, which," he says, "is unquestionably the first good and the foundation of all the other goods of this life." One of the aims of this seminar will be to understand better the relationship between the "good life" and the merely biological life on which it depends. This will entail a consideration of a variety of views from the history of science which shed light on how the art of healing treats a person as a whole and not merely as a body.

In this continuation of the "Poetic Method" seminar series, we will devote our attention to classic texts in the history of the life sciences including selections from Hippocrates, Galen, the great anatomical artist Vesalius. Texts from the early modern era will include selections from Descartes' correspondence with Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia as well as La Mettrie's provocative *Man Machine*. We will also look at essays by Hans Jonas and Hans-Georg Gadamer for more contemporary philosophical reflections on biology and medicine in antiquity and since the advent of modern science.

This course is designed for Humane Letters teachers wanting to learn more about science, Science teachers wanting to discuss science in a Socratic seminar, and people who just want to enjoy some really great conversation.

Leader: Dr. Michael Ivins, Humane Letters Teacher, Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

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.

Leader: Courtney Gunn, Assistant Headmaster, Great Hearts Monte Vista North

Online

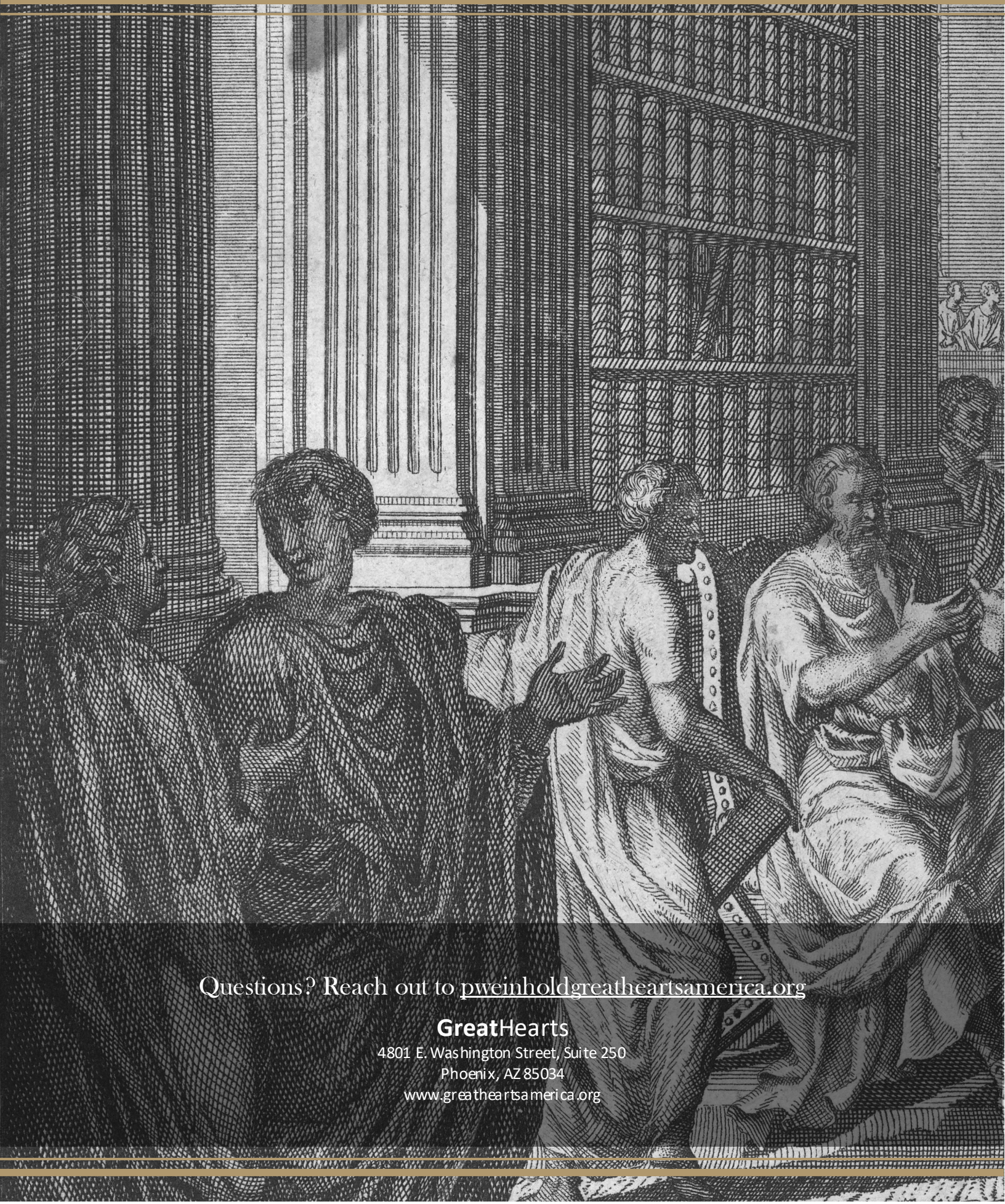
July 13-29

Mon. & Wed.

3pm - 5pm (CST)

1pm - 3pm (AZ)

*This course has one additional class meeting on



Questions? Reach out to pweinhold@greatheartsamerica.org

GreatHearts

4801 E. Washington Street, Suite 250

Phoenix, AZ 85034

www.greatheartsamerica.org