

SIX GREAT IDEAS

"No one can be fully educated in school, no matter how long the schooling or how good it is." ...No one, no matter how old, should stop learning," Mortimer J. Adler

Of the 52 "Great Ideas", which Mortimer J. Adler enumerated in the book cited below, we will be looking at only six. Adler's larger work, *How to Think About the Great Ideas*, from *The Great Books of Western Civilization*, edited by Max Weismann, is the text from which I have chosen our six topics. Over eight years, Adler also wrote a *Syntopicon: An Index to the Great Ideas*. In this work 102 (later, 103) irreducible and indispensable Great Ideas may be found from the Great Books of the Western World. The *Syntopicon* became an important contribution to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The week prior to each discussion topic, Lana will give an introductory summary of the concept, present the text for study via email, and give the writing assignment. Each topic is assigned reading before the week assigned to discussion. For the writing part of your work, there will be a requirement of a minimum 300-word essay on the topic, which we will discuss together. These essays are to be sent via email to Lana, at goodwool@reagan.com. Lana will respond individually, via email, to your written work. The focus of the evaluation of your work will be as much on the grammar and written expression as on the thought processes to arrive at your conclusions. You are free to draw your conclusions from your personal experience, and/or you may choose to comment directly on the writings of Dr. Adler. Outlines are a presentation of the main points of your essay without the details of your position or conclusions. They will guide you to be organized in your essay. Likely, each point will be developed into a paragraph.

September 12	Intro to Class	<i>Six Great Ideas</i> , by Dr. Mortimer J. Adler. God assignment
September 19	Zoom Discussion	God Outline of your essay
September 26	God essay due	Love: Love as Friendship assignment presented via Zoom and email
October 3	Zoom Discussion	Love as Friendship Outline of your essay
October 10	Love essay due	Opinion and Human Freedom assignment presented via Zoom and email
October 17	Zoom Discussion	Opinion and Human Freedom Outline of your essay
October 24	Opinion essay due	Good and Evil assignment presented via Zoom and email
October 31	Zoom Discussion	Good and Evil Outline of your essay
November 7	Good/Evil essay due	Punishment assignment presented via Zoom and email
November 14	Zoom Discussion	Punishment Outline of your essay
November 21	Punishment essay due	Beauty assignment presented via Zoom and email
December 5	Zoom Discussion	Beauty Outline of your essay
December 12	Beauty essay due	Course Evaluation presented via Zoom and email
December 19	Class Party	

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST

Bible study will include discussions of various meditations presented in the book *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. You should purchase a copy before the first class. Some editions are written in British English of 1934. Others use more current English of today. A Bible, in whatever translation you choose, will also be needed for class.

“Shut out every other consideration and keep yourself before God for this one thing only—My Utmost for His Highest. I am determined to be absolutely and entirely for Him and for Him alone.”

“...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31b

Students will choose a meditation for discussion and/or written comment from one day between the dates of the class. If discussion is the preferred format, then the student should submit an outline of the point(s) he wishes to discuss or defend.

September 12	Make a selection to discuss between September 5-12
September 19	Make a selection to discuss between September 13-19
September 26	Make a selection to discuss between September 20-26
October 3	Make a selection to discuss between Sept. 27 – October 3
October 10	Make a selection to discuss between October 4-10
October 17	Make a selection to discuss between October 11-17
October 24	Make a selection to discuss between October 18-24
October 31	Make a selection to discuss between October 25-31
November 7	Make a selection to discuss between November 1-7
November 14	Make a selection to discuss between November 8-14
November 21	Make a selection to discuss between November 15-21
December 5	Make a selection to discuss between Nov. 22 – December 5
December 12	Make a selection to discuss between December 6-12
December 19	Class Party

Required Textbooks

“*Six Great Ideas*” by Mortimer J. Adler (ISBN-13: 978-0684826813)

“*My Utmost For His Highest*” by Oswald Chambers (various editions available, choose one which you prefer to study. Edition which provides space for journaling may be helpful).