



CLASSIC CORE TEXTS AND
CITIZENSHIP IN AMERICA:

TOWARDS A RENAISSANCE OF “LEADING CITIZENS”

Thursday p.m. through Saturday, October 31 to November 2

“Leading Citizens”

From the time of Homer and Plato—emphasized by Thucydides, Aristotle, Cicero, Plutarch, Thomas More, and Shakespeare—through the American Founding, fostering “leading citizens” was a conscious element in educating the young. In the words of Cambridge scholar Quentin Skinner, “Fostering a virtuous and educated citizenry provides the key to upholding the liberty of states and individuals alike.” These words summarize a tradition that goes back to the beginnings of our Western heritage, and the purpose of this weekend conference is to explore educational approaches towards recapturing this powerful tradition and especially its vision of “leading citizens.”

Readings

Separate PDF packet and
Cicero’s *On Duties*.

Overall objectives: understand what Cicero & More show & teach about “leading citizens”; give an account of why history, literature, and rhetoric have special roles to play; give and collect examples of other “leading citizens” who have been effective in a high school classroom; suggest teaching and mentoring materials that should be developed.

Thursday, 31 October 2019

- 6:30 Opening dinner at UD, Gorman Faculty Lounge
- 7:30 Slide show on “Leading Citizens in Art” (during dessert), Ger Wegemer, Gorman Faculty Lounge

Friday, 1 November 2019

- [6:30 Mass at Cistercian; see below at 4:00 also]; breakfast at the Marriot-Las Colinas Hotel
- 9-10:30 Seminar on More’s *Utopia*, Book 1; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 11-12:15 Seminar on Cicero’s *On Duties*, Bk. 1; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 12:30 Lunch; Gorman Faculty Lounge
- 2:00-3:30 “Case Studies of Leading Citizens in Literature: Preparing the Young to Lead Wisely and Well,”
Steve Smith; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 4:00-5:30 Optional: Tom Hibbs’ Inauguration: Mass and Inaugural Address, Gymnasium
- 6:00 Dinner and presentation during dessert; Gorman Faculty Lounge

Saturday, 2 November 2019

- [6:30 Mass at Cistercian]; breakfast at the hotel
- 9:00-10:30 Seminar on More’s Letters on Education and Plutarch’s “How to Tell a Flatterer from a Friend”; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 11:00-12:15 Seminar on St. Basil the Great’s “How to Profit from Pagan Learning”; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 12:30 Lunch; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 2:00-3:30 Shakespeare, More’s Quelling London Riot in *Sir Thomas More*: Teaching Rhetoric, Best Practices; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 4:00-4:45 Ideas for Developing a Curriculum and an *Ethos* of “Leading Citizenship” and Friendship – concluding discussion; Serafy Room, SB Hall
- 5:00 [anticipatory Mass at Church of the Incarnation]
- 6:00 Dinner and social, Gorman Faculty Lounge