

The Great Books interdisciplinary minor at MTSU is designed to offer students the opportunity to broaden their undergraduate education and supplement their own major field by studying **the most significant and influential texts in a number of different disciplines**. The aim is to equip students with clear ideas of the ways in which some of the most important books ever written shaped, altered, and influenced the formation of human civilization. Books to be studied may be drawn from **any cultural, political, social, philosophical, or artistic perspective**. The only requirement is that they be recognized within their discipline as being among **the defining works in that field of knowledge**.

For example, in this program an English or foreign language major might enroll in a history course covering the **great historical texts** of ancient Greece and Rome written by figures like Herodotus and Thucydides. Similarly, a student in political science could enroll in a philosophy course examining some of the **foundational texts in political philosophy**. Or a philosophy major interested in studying medieval philosophy could sign up for an English course focusing on **great books of the Middle Ages**. The Great Books minor is designed to give students an education that is broad as well as deep, ranging over diverse disciplines at the same time that it reinforces focus on the student's major field.

In courses receiving the Great Books designation, instructors have agreed to teach, in its entirety, at least one defining, ground-

breaking text in the particular discipline. In Great Books courses, students will **study, discuss, and write about essential written works** (novels, plays, long poems, scientific writings, historical works, philosophical treatises) that have helped shape their disciplines. Students who successfully complete requirements for the minor will be credited on their transcripts with **a minor in Great Books**.

