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**Subject:**

**Date:** Fri, 14 May 2010 23:44:36 +0000

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the fact that you have lived a privileged life, and remain ungrateful, blaming me for your lack of education, schooling, baby, and assume that no matter how little you do, or how much you aggravate/nag me, that you should continue living the same life as if you had done what I asked. I'm afraid is unrealistic.

## The Great Books program

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The [Great Books](#) program (often called simply "the Program" or "the New Program" at St. John's) was developed at the [University of Chicago](#) by [Stringfellow Barr](#), [Scott Buchanan](#), [Robert Hutchins](#), and [Mortimer Adler](#) in the mid-1930s as an alternative form of education to the then rapidly changing undergraduate curriculum. St. John's adopted the Great Books program in 1937, when the college was facing the possibility of financial and academic ruin. The Great Books program in use today was also influenced by [Jacob Klein](#), who was dean of the college in the 1940s and 1950s.

The four-year program of study, nearly all of which is mandatory, demands that students read and discuss the works of many of Western civilization's most prominent contributors to philosophy, theology, mathematics, science, music, poetry, and literature, such as [Aristotle](#), [Shakespeare](#), [Descartes](#), and [Einstein](#). In line with the views of the program's founders—who complained of "vocational interests" that "clutter" other colleges' curricula—"Johnnies", as St. John's students style themselves, usually value intellectual pursuits for their own sake, regardless of whether they have practical application. Tutorials (mathematics, language, and music), as well as Seminar and Laboratory, are discussion-based. In the Mathematics tutorial students often demonstrate propositions that mathematicians throughout various ages have laid out. In the Language tutorial student translations are presented (Ancient Greek is studied in the first two years and French for the last two). The tutorials, with Seminar and Laboratory, constitute the "classes". All classes, and in particular the Seminar, are considered formal exercises; consequently, students address one another, as well as their teachers, only by their last names during class.

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