

Core Texts and Ideas Certificate Plan

The Certificate Program in Core Texts and Ideas offers undergraduates in all majors an integrated sequence of six courses based on great books and fundamental questions, which can also be used to satisfy UT core requirements. The certificate requires a minimum of 18 hours including

- 6 hours of upper division coursework
- 9 hours taken in residence
- One or more courses in each of four required areas, as outlined below
- CTI electives as needed to bring the total to 18 hours

Area 1 Philosophy and Literature of the Ancient World

Classical philosophy and literature primarily from ancient Greece, exploring fundamental questions about human nature, justice, ethics, and humanity's place in the cosmos. Readings include one or more masterpieces of epic or tragedy and one or more dialogues of Plato. One of the following is required:

- CTI 301G Introduction to Ancient Greece
- TC 302 Introduction to Greek Political Thought
- UGS 302 The Discovery of Freedom *or* Classical Philosophy and Literature
- UGS 303 The Discovery of Freedom *or* The Challenge of the Greeks

Area 2 Major Texts of World Religion

A study of basic religious texts, including both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, examined from various perspectives, with emphasis on the fundamental questions raised in those texts. One of the following is required:

- CTI 304 The Bible and its Interpreters
- CTI 304 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- CTI 375 The Qur'an

Area 3 History of Political Philosophy

Introduces the great rival conceptions of the moral basis and goals of political life as elaborated by revolutionary thinkers in the history of political philosophy, including at least one representative each from classical antiquity, the medieval period, the enlightenment, and the late modern critics of the enlightenment. One of the following is required:

- CTI 302 Classics of Social and Political Thought
- CTI 303 Competing Visions of the Good Life
- UGS 303 Justice, Liberty, Happiness
- UGS 303 Justice and the Human Good

Area 4 America's Constitutional Principles

Close readings from primary texts that have shaped or that reflect deeply on American democracy, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, The Federalist Papers, and Tocqueville's Democracy in America. One of the following is required:

- GOV 312P or 312P-H Constitutional Principals: Core Texts
- GOV 379S Regime Perspectives on American Politics

Electives (as need to make a total of 18 hours)

Other courses or combinations of courses covering the required elements for any of the four areas may be substituted by petitioning TJC advisor Nathan Vickers at nvickers@austin.utexas.edu. Qualifying course lists may be found [here](#).