

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR FALL 2022

GREAT CONVERSATIONS FROM GREAT BOOKS

Coordinators: Arlyne LeSchack and Judith Zaborowski

The philosophy behind the Great Book's Foundation shared inquiry approach dovetails perfectly with our *LP2* peer learning model. The method allows for full participation between the coordinators and the class members creating mutual learning for all. Study group participants become acquainted with a different way to view material in a book and learn to use the shared inquiry approach which is text centered and question driven. Our Great Conversations study group creates a dialogue between the twelve authors we've selected (de Balzac, Tolstoy, Kipling, Pirandello, Crane, Anderson, Borges, de Beauvoir, Paley, Szymborska, Foucault, Lahiri) and those *LP2* members who take the study group. The themes that run through the study group are Art and Artists, Domestic Life, Exercising Power, History Lessons, Love and Marriage, Social Critique, Subjectivity, and Violence.

(This is a modification of a study group given six years ago.)

Arlyne and **Judith** attended Great Books training, and this is the tenth time they are coordinating a Great Conversations Study Group.

Type of Study Group: Mostly discussion

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

Great Conversations, Volume 3, The Great Books Foundation, (2007, ISBN 1-880-323-17-6)

******* SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS *******

Each selection is followed by a series of both interpretative and evaluative questions, one sample question for each selection is listed below.

WEEK 1

READING: "The Unknown Masterpiece" by Honore de Balzac

QUESTION: Is there a relationship between art and madness?

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WEEK 2

READING: *Second Epilogue to War and Peace*

QUESTION: Why does Tolstoy think traditional views of history are flawed?

WEEK 3

READING: "The Man Who Would Be King" by Rudyard Kipling

QUESTION: Which is more important in this story, class or race?

WEEK 4

READING: *Six Characters in Search of an Author* by Luigi Pirandello

QUESTION: How do characters in a play differ from characters in prose narrative?

WEEK 5

READING: "The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane

QUESTION: To what degree does chance shape an individual's life?

WEEK 6

READING: *Death in the Woods* by Sherwood Anderson

QUESTION: What compels the narrator to tell the story over again?

WEEK 7

READING: "The Garden of Forking Paths" by Jorge Luis Borges

QUESTION: Is the course of history determined more by chance or free will?

WEEK 8

READING: Introduction to *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir

QUESTION: What distinction does Beauvoir draw between happiness and liberty?

WEEK 9

READING: "An Interest in Life" by Grace Paley

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QUESTION: Is it possible to live completely free of hypocrisy?

WEEK 10

READING: *Selected Poems* by Wislawa Szymborska

QUESTION: Is the concept of war crimes morally logical?

WEEK 11

READING: "The Body of the Condemned" by Michel Foucault

QUESTION: How does the concept of power-knowledge affect one's view of punishment?

WEEK 12

READING: *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

QUESTION: Does culture mostly help or hinder us in understanding ourselves and others?