

General Introduction of Great Books Study

In order to ensure the International Course attains the highest levels of quality, YuCai has based it on a core Great Books program, a highly regarded American curriculum organized and authorized by the Great Books Foundation.

The Great Books program was started in 1947 by Robert Maynard Hutchins, the President of the University of Chicago. Since then, the program has been highly promoted among top American universities, middle and primary schools. The Great Books program includes a series of classic original works of the great minds from ancient to modern times, such as Aristotle, Plato and Galileo. It is a complete curriculum system, from kindergarten to university. Suitable teaching material and curriculum for the high school students will be chosen for the International Course.

The curriculum includes the following four aspects:

- **Humanities** – Art, Music, Poetry, Drama and Fiction
- **Natural Sciences** – Chemistry, Light & Motion, Evolution, Genetics, Animal Behavior, Quantum Physics and Molecular Biology
- **Social Sciences** – Society, Culture, Personality, Western Political Tradition, Modern Theories of State & Society and History of Western Civilization
- **Integrative Studies** – Logic, Rhetoric, Nature & Creation of Mathematics and History of Western Philosophy

The Great Books program widely covers literature, the arts, and the sciences from the same historical time periods, helping students to become well aware of historical development from ancient Greece to the 21st century high-tech information age while enlivening students' imagination. Students will learn to strive for greatness as ethical human beings and expand their international vision. The program cultivates the students' profound humanity, and instills a broad and long-term view of the world, international awareness and inclusive, cross-cultural communication abilities.

The Great Books curriculum is already used at the most prestigious American universities, including Harvard, Stanford, St. John's and Columbia. Therefore this course is the perfect stepping stone to progressing to further study at an overseas college or university.



Great Books Teaching Method: the Shared Inquiry™ Process

The Shared Inquiry™ Process, centered on roundtable discussion, is the heart of the Great Books method. Experienced teachers use interpretive questions to guide each discussion of a chosen reading. This text-based approach encourages students' active participation, self-expression, and reflection. The teachers' evaluative questions also stimulate students' written expression, deepening their understanding of reality and developing their ways of thinking. Gradually, their reading comprehension and expressive abilities are improved, and most importantly, their critical thinking and logical writing skills are cultivated.

Roundtable Discussion

- Led by experienced teachers through class discussion, the students share their own ideas, understand the text and contribute their original ideas.
- Their reading comprehension and expressive abilities are improved, and most importantly, their critical thinking and logical writing skills are cultivated.

Interpretive Questions

- The curiosity of each student is inspired and they are active in the discussion to develop deeper and more enlightening ideas.
- The students are led to look at things beyond the text, as well as reflect on reality and text contents.

Evaluative Questions

- Teachers' questioning stimulate students' written expression, deepening their understanding of reality and developing their ways of thinking.



GREAT BOOKS
TEACHING METHOD