

etica

A Classical Perspective
for the Contemporary Student

Fall 2009

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etica: order and intelligence. The newsletter of The Feltre School.

22 West Erie Street | Chicago, IL 60654 | 312.255.1133 | www.feltre.org



Our name is probably most often associated with classes in English grammar and writing—that is our principal work, and over the last 17 years we have helped many, many adult students understand how much depends on thinking and communicating clearly.

The Feltre School, though, also offers courses in literature and philosophy, and it is not unusual for a student of grammar and writing to enroll subsequently in a discussion of Homer or Plato or Dante. Literature, after all, is among the highest uses—and pleasures—to which we can put

“Literature, after all, is among the highest uses — and pleasures — to which we can put our understanding of grammar and composition...”

our understanding of grammar and composition, and the great works in particular give us both ideas to consider and models to follow as we put our own thoughts into language, no matter how great or humble.

This coming fall, we will offer two more such courses: Homer’s *Odyssey* and Plato’s *Republic*. Both are works of primary importance to our culture, and whether one agrees or disagrees with the high estimation in which they are generally held, it is difficult to deny that both these great works have helped define the institutions and way of life of our world. Homer’s *Odyssey* is a great adventure story, replete with all the excitement and color and detail one could ask for as we watch the great Greek hero make his precarious way home after battle. And Plato’s *Republic*, a more properly philosophical discussion, takes us into battle with the higher questions: How should a just society be organized? How should we best raise and education our children? How real and lasting, after all, is this world we work so hard to find a place in?

Grammar Challenge

In the following sentences, choose the correct pronouns and explain your choices.

Go to www.feltre.org for the answers, and for a thorough explanation of this topic, consider enrolling in *The Elements of Grammar and Writing*, our 7-week grammar review.

1. Horatio and (I or me) traded comic books.
2. Between you and (he or him), who is the better swimmer?
3. The architect showed her plans to the construction engineer and (we or us).
4. If you were (he or him), would you have gone to school?
5. (We or us) girls are planning to attend the opening.
6. Aunt Paula and (she or her) used to work in a clothing factory.
7. Let’s you and (I or me) go to the ball game tonight.
8. I watched (they or them) and their husbands pick up their children after school.
9. There were only two girls waiting—Constance and (she or her).
10. Inez gave Maggie and (I or me) free passes to a concert.

From *Basic Grammar* by Sheldon W. Liebman. ©Copyright 1999. All rights reserved.

Whether you have taken a course with us before, or are thinking of joining us this fall for the first time, I encourage you to consider one of these two new courses in literature and philosophy. The discussion is always lively. I hope, too, that you will consider a gift to The Feltre School as the new academic year begins. Our institution depends chiefly upon persons like you who understand that a school is more than the courses in its catalogue; that learning a skill must go hand in hand with a passion for the craft; and that this combination of knowledge and passion brings confidence and mastery. Please help us keep the way to this traditional vision of education open. ♦♦

Why Should I Study at The Feltre School? A Common Question Answered

By Daniel Tuell

Deciding to return to the classroom is no small task indeed, and becoming a student again, especially after a long time away, can bring one pause. The Feltre School prides itself on making the return to school a meaningful and pleasant one. Our classes are small, so you won’t get lost in the crowd; our students are interested in learning, so you will be working with others wanting to learn the same subjects you do; and our teachers are dedicated instructors for whom teaching is not just a career but a way of life.

Our classes average eight to ten students, all seated comfortably around a table in one of our intimate classrooms. With so few, students are able to engage the instructor as well as one another in a guided discussion about the rules of language and thought and the reasons behind them. The faculty at Feltre teach from a deep obligation to share what

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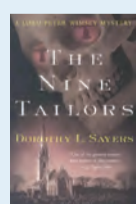
they have learned, so our students can rest assured they are receiving not only solid knowledge, but also an understanding of why language is so important. Skill is one thing, but skill and passion together is quite another. Come discover for yourself what real education is about. ♦♦

Daniel Tuell has been teaching grammar, writing, and logic at The Feltre School for the past five years. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Grand Valley State University, and is also a member of the faculty of The Chicago Academy for the Arts.

Monthly Book Discussion

The Monthly Book Discussion gives people the opportunity to engage in serious discussion with others about great works of fiction. The meeting begins with a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by the discussion at 7:00 p.m. The cost to attend is \$15 per meeting. For more information or to reserve a place, please call 312-255-1133.

Upcoming Titles:



September 14
The Nine Tailors
By Dorothy Sayers



October 12
Heaven's My Destination
By Thornton Wilder

Please send comments to:
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The FELTRE SCHOOL

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THE LIBRARY THEATRE at Feltre

We are grateful to all of those who made our 2008-2009 season a success. With your help we were able to produce more plays and reach a larger audience than ever before. In our cozy library people witnessed the great biographical depiction of two WWI poets, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen (*Not About Heroes*), a mother and daughter struggle with modern philosophical questions about the meaning and value of life (*'night, Mother*), and also the first-ever musical in our library theatre (based on the myth of Pyramus and Thisbe, and the longest running off-broadway play, *The Fantasticks*). Please watch your email or join our fan page at Facebook, Friends of Feltre, for an announcement of our 2009-2010 season. ♦♦



Not About Heroes Fall 2008



'night, Mother Winter 2009



The Fantasticks Spring 2009

The FELTRE SCHOOL Annual Fund

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A Publication of

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COURSE SCHEDULE September Term 2009

Classes begin the week of September 7th
and meet once a week.

The Elements of Grammar and Writing

A 7-week course
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Persuasive Speaking

A 7-week course
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Grammar I

The first 7-week session of a 21-week course
Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Grammar II

The second 7-week session of a 21-week course
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Plato's Republic

A 14-week course
Monday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (begins 9/14)

Homer's Odyssey

A 14-week course
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Introduction to Classical Latin

A 35-week course
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Call 312.255.1133 to enroll!
The October Term begins 10/26/2009

The Feltre School is a nonprofit private and independent school, tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and does not discriminate whatsoever on the basis of race, color, or national origin in its admissions, employment, or affiliations.

Write Now!

THE
FELTRE
SCHOOL

FALL ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN

Visit www.feltre.org
or call **312 255-1133**
to register.

Curious about a class?

Learn more by calling to speak to a staff member
or by visiting a class at no obligation.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Elements of Grammar and Writing

This seven-week course in the craft of writing covers the most important elements of grammar and sentence structure, and explains how to use those elements in organizing your thoughts and communicating them clearly.

Persuasive Speaking

This seven-week course teaches the techniques, and the principles behind them, for presenting ideas in a compelling and dynamic style that is appropriate to both the audience and occasion.

Introduction to Classical Latin

This thirty-five-week comprehensive course provides a solid grammatical foundation and presents the basic syntax and vocabulary necessary to read both prose and poetry of the classical period. Students may enroll fourteen weeks at a time.

Plato's Republic

This 14-week course on Plato's *Republic* takes up the question of justice, that is to say, the right organization of a society and its citizens' lives. This classic work of philosophy discusses how a good society may be developed, how that society can best educate its citizens and leaders, and what it is that will bring both individuals and their society to a real and lasting happiness.

Homer's Odyssey

Homer's *Odyssey* is the grand tale of a hero's journey home from war. Like all great works of literature, *The Odyssey* can be read in many ways: as an adventure story, a penetrating classical myth, even as a philosophical allegory of the pilgrimage we call life. This work rich in detail, action, and meaning will be explored in this 14-week course.

THE PROGRAM FOR THE LANGUAGE ARTS

The language arts are traditionally defined as the three subjects of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. This group, known as the trivium, represents those verbal skills upon which every writer and speaker must be able to depend in order to present one's ideas in a manner that is lucid, true, and persuasive.

The Program comprises three twenty-one-week courses, and each course is composed of three seven-week sessions. Because each session builds on the theory and practice of the previous one, students are strongly encouraged to begin the Program at the beginning and move their way methodically through the complete curriculum. Students may take breaks between seven-week sessions and resume study at their own pace.

GRAMMAR - The first course of The Program for the Language Arts

This twenty-one-week course (divided into three seven-week sessions) reviews the elements of word, phrase, and clause, systematically taking up then the eight parts of speech and studying in depth how each can be used to what effect.

LOGIC - The second course of The Program for the Language Arts

This twenty-one-week course in our Program (divided into three seven-week sessions) teaches how to think critically about ideas, and explains how to apply these principles to construct logically sound paragraphs. *Logic I* will be offered in January, 2010.

RHETORIC - The third course of The Program for the Language Arts

This final twenty-one-week course (divided into three seven-week sessions) teaches how to choose an appropriate vocabulary, to organize ideas cogently by sentence and paragraph, and to convey one's thoughts in a manner that is both pleasing and effective, all while considering the intended audience and purpose.

To see other classes offered throughout the year, go to www.feltre.org.