



It is certainly true that tough economic times make it the right time to get back to school. None of us can afford to be without a command of English, and being certain about our grammar and punctuation makes us all the more confident in expressing our thoughts effectively.

Taking a course in language, though, can do more than make us respected employees. Language is the gateway to literature, to civic affairs—even to philosophy, and tough times can give us reasons to think about the direction and quality of our lives. Literature, for example, is more than entertainment or pastime. Taking up a novel and living with its characters—even at the rate of only a couple of pages a day—gives us the chance to consider what

“Language is the gateway to literature, to civic affairs—even to philosophy”

we would do and how we would act if we were confronted with the same fate as those we are reading about. Serious essays about current affairs can make us better informed about both facts and opinions on the events of the day, both in our own community and in the world community. And if we choose to really take a deep breath and begin to climb the mountain of philosophy, we will give ourselves the perspective from which to think about the important ideas that none of us can ignore, questions about hope, happiness, and a meaningful life.

Our shorter course in grammar is the place to begin if you are returning to school and wish to review in an adult and serious way the essentials of modern English. You may choose, too, to join us at one of our monthly reading groups; you'll have a month to read a serious work of literature, and meet other interesting people in an always interesting discussion. Or you may even wish to consider one of our courses in philosophy. From whichever direction, I hope you will join us here at The Feltre School this coming term. ♦

Grammar Challenge

The subject of the verb is what the sentence is about, and subjects determine whether the verb is singular or plural. Compare "The doctor is in." to "The doctors are in."

In the following sentences, correct all errors in subject-verb agreement.

Go to www.feltre.org for the answers. For a thorough explanation of this topic, consider enrolling in one of our grammar courses.

1. The clown wearing the funny shoes is worn out.
2. There's a few messages on your answering machine.
3. Either Priscilla or Bertha is going to Dallas.
4. Candace as well as David were called on by Mr. Vetter.
5. Here are your mother and father.
6. That pack of thieves have stolen my pajamas.
7. Over there in the corner are three flower pots.
8. One-third of the cornstalks has been ruined by draught.

From Basic Grammar by Sheldon W. Liebman.
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Student News

We are proud to announce that Robert Lawrence, Cherie Lockett, Holly Myers, and Jason Myers are the first students to complete The Program for the Language Arts. This 63-week Program, launched in 2007, provides students with a comprehensive study of the language arts by teaching the traditional disciplines of grammar, logic, and rhetoric.

“Having focused on other disciplines during college, Feltre’s Language Arts classes have been a great way to enhance my communication skills.”
— Jason Myers

“I never imagined that a detailed analysis of grammar, logic & rhetoric could be so interesting. I wish I had taken this series before law school!”
— Holly Myers

“When you follow the program, it works.”
— Robert Lawrence

Congratulations, Robert, Cherie, Holly, and Jason, and thank you for your support of The Feltre School! ♦



Standing left to right are Jason Myers and Robert Lawrence and seated left to right are Holly Myers and Cherie Lockett.

When Do I Find the Time to Study? A Common Question Answered

By Daniel Tuell

With so many demands on our time and attention these days, it is a wonder that we should get anything done. Keeping up with deadlines at work, making sure the bills are paid on time, and exercising to stay in shape are just a few of the routine tasks that quickly fill our schedules. When, then, could we possibly find the time to study for class? This is a common challenge that many of our students voice. And since I tell them to plan on about three hours of work outside of class each week, their question becomes an important one to consider.

The secret, however, is not necessarily finding time but rather using what time we have more effectively, and there are two things that I suggest to my students to help them maximize their effort. First, I tell them

“studying for shorter periods everyday helps students retain better what they learn.”

to divide the work into smaller intervals and spread it out over the week; work a little bit everyday. This way they do not feel they need a solid two or three hours to sit down and study. Plus, studying for shorter periods everyday helps students retain better what they learn. Second, I tell them to find a quiet place away from any kind of distraction, a place where they can focus and work diligently. Television, radio, and cell phones can easily divert one's attention, making it that much harder to concentrate. These two simple suggestions—studying in shorter intervals more frequently and doing so in a quiet, secluded place—can add greatly to our success in the classroom and to our sense of accomplishment, knowing that we are managing our time well. ♦

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 :

April 13 | *The Place of the Lion*
By Charles Williams



The Library Theatre's 2008-09 Season Off-Loop becomes Off-Broadway!

The love story of Pyramus and Thisbe is a part of Roman mythology, and is also a sentimental romance. The tale is told by Ovid in his *Metamorphoses*. In brief, it is a tragic tale of two star-crossed lovers who, through several misunderstandings, wind up dead before they can be wed. Where have we heard this tale before? Well, not only was it the basis for *Romeo and Juliet* but it also found its way into *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, much later *West Side Story*, and with a little quirky twist and a lot less tragedy, into off-Broadway's longest running musical, *The Fantasticks*. The show's original production ran for 17,162 performances, becoming the world's longest-running musical for 42 years.



With two very serious and somber plays under our belts this season, *Not About Heroes* and the Pulitzer Prize winning *'night, Mother*, we thought it was time to lighten things up a bit and also stretch our creative limits by mounting a musical in our Library Theatre. Songs from *The Fantasticks* include the well-known, Try to Remember (the kind of September), Plant a Radish, and Soon It's Gonna Rain, among others. *The Fantasticks* will be the final show in what has been a very successful season for us, and we would be thrilled to have you join us. The production runs from May 1 to May 17, including three Sunday matinee performances. The matinee on May 10 is preceded by a benefit brunch hosted by the director of *The Fantasticks*, Jason Harrington, and The Library Theatre's artistic director, Lawrence Lenza. Tickets will sell quickly, so please call us at 312-255-1133. ♦



Heidi Hewitt as Jessie and Cynthia Judge as Thelma in Marsha Norman's *'night, Mother*. Photos by Michael DiGioia



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Spring 2009

A Classical Perspective
for the Contemporary Student

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Classes begin the week of
April 20 and meet once a week.

April Term 2009

The Elements of Grammar and Writing

A 7-week course
Wednesday 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.

Introduction to Classical Latin

A 35-week course
Monday 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Grammar I

The first 7-week session of a 21-week course
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (begins May 2)

Grammar II

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

Grammar III

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

Logic I

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

To enroll, please call The Feltre School at 312.255.1133
The June Term begins 6/8/2009

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.

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

In this 14-week course we will discuss the work's main question, What is justice?, and watch the way in which the master Socrates discovers the principles on which he believes living happily depends. This class will be offered in September.

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.

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.

Write Now!



SPRING 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.