

**HUMANITIES
FORM III
2021-2022 SYLLABUS**



Tutor: Joe McCulley
Contact: joseph.w.mcculley@gmail.com

THE PURPOSE OF HUMANITIES 3:

If you study plumbing the goal is to be a plumber. If you go to the gym and spend your days practicing Olympic lifting, your goal is to be a weight-lifter. If you commit yourself to the study of chemistry, the goal is to be a chemist. Simple enough. The goal of a humanities course follows the same logic: studying the humanities cultivates within us the things that make us good humans: history, respect, wisdom, humor, beauty, tact, depth, etc. Anyone can do electrical work, not everyone can do it well. All people are made in God's Image, but being a human being in God's image—being a virtuous human being—is hard work, we are not good at doing it well. In the humanities we blend history (the study of the story we are in), literature (the study of the stories we tell), psychology (the study of who we are), philosophy (the love of wisdom), and theology (the knowledge of God) into a composite course centered on discussion, reading, and reflection. The humanities course at SBH is concerned with shaping the affections and imaginations of students towards the Good True and Beautiful. This year our curricular focus is the Medieval Ages (Ancient last year, Modern next year).

THE OBJECTIVES OF HUMANITIES 3:

- Exposure to deep reflection on essential texts from the Classical Age.
- Understanding the basic shape of Greco-Roman legend and culture.
- Understanding the craft of epic literature and the four hermeneutical senses.
- Developing a love of learning.
- Cultivating a Biblical worldview and sensibility with regard to human life.

THE READING MATERIAL:

Homer, *The Odyssey*, Trans. Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin Books, 1997.

Leithart, Peter J. *Heroes of the City of Man: A Christian Guide to Select Ancient Literature*.
Moscow, Idaho: Canon Press, 2006.

THE PROJECTED SCHEDULE:

Mondays

We review the homework from the preceding weekend and usually have a time of analysis or reflection on the readings or the compositions.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

We read and discuss either the historical period, the literary text, or the theological, philosophical, and psychological content of the week.

Thursdays & Fridays

This is the “at-home” portion of our class. These days will focus on either reading (with extensive notes), or compositional homework (essays, stories, reflections, projects, etc.). Students will be asked to summarize each book of Homer’s *Odyssey*, so that by the end of the year, they have a good sense of the sweep and structure of Homer’s tale.