**Great Books of Western Humanities**

**Nombre de la asignatura**: Great Books of Western Humanities

**Departamento**: Filosofía.

**Plan de estudios**: Grados de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

**Carácter**: Optativa

**Semestre**: Segundo.

**Créditos**: 3 ECTS.

**Idioma**: Inglés

**Calendario de clases**: enero - abril

**Horario asignado**: Jueves de 17:00 a 19:00

**Aulas**: 36 Edificio Central

**Profesor encargado de la asignatura**: William Franke (Visiting Professor)

**Descripción de la asignatura**:

       This course offers an introduction to outstanding “great books” of Western intellectual tradition from the periods of the Renaissance and Modernity.  These periods have seen the dramatic rise of science and technology.  This has put pressure on older forms of knowledge by divine revelation and creative imagination.  The singularity and uniqueness of the human individual becomes problematic.  We will follow some  outstanding attempts to retain connection with pre-modern tradition and its presumably timeless forms of wisdom as assimilated into the new modern outlook in seminal works of fiction and poetry.  The dialogue between scientific and literary modes of comprehension will thus serve as a guiding thread across the variety of readings selected for the semester.

      The texts will be read and discussed in English, but the encounter with great books will transpire also through attention to the key expressions in the original languages.  We will learn to appreciate language and rhetoric not just as instruments for communication of information (the technological view), but also as forms of life intrinsic to all human culture and experience, beginning with the experience of Western cultural tradition in certain great books and their forms of "poetic knowing."