



# *GILESKIRK CURRICULUM*

## *Christendom*

*Dr. George Grant*

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# An Introduction to Gileskirk

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Gileskirk curricula are designed to be complete, self-contained courses of study for individual students, a family, or a group. The goal of Gileskirk is to provide a strong liberal arts study surveying the disciplines of history, literature, philosophy, theology, civics, art, music, and architecture of a particular epoch. In our students, we hope to foster a love of learning, a passion for reading, and the ability to discern worldviews and to think critically. To that end, we hope this introduction will provide insight and instructions for using Gileskirk studies in your home or classroom.

This year the area of focus will be Christendom—an epoch composed primarily of the passing of Antiquity and the Early Church through the Medieval Era and the Renaissance until the time of the Enlightenment.

## Elements of the Course

Each Gileskirk study course is comprised of the following material:

### **Lectures**

Each lesson is built around a lecture delivered by Dr. George Grant to the Humanities class at Franklin Classical School. Each lecture is numbered to indicate its order within the series. As much as possible, Dr. Grant's class instructions for projects, assignments, and readings have been included. You will need to allow for extra class periods during the year to accommodate project presentations, review sessions, and exam days for the midterm and final. You may also desire extra class periods for discussions of the literature texts. The numbered lessons in this book correspond to the numbered lectures.

### **Lesson and Outlines**

Each lesson gives the reading assignments, which should be finished before listening to the lecture. If a quiz is to be given it is listed at the beginning of the lesson, and the quiz should be given before the lecture. The quiz will cover information from the previous lectures and readings. Additional homework assignments are due the next class period. If the homework assignment is a reading journal entry, it should be written that day. Each lesson includes an outline for the specific lecture. While students should certainly use the outlines as guides to help order their notes, the temptation is to copy the information and then relax. Students' note-taking skills will improve throughout the year, but teachers and mentors should check notebooks occasionally to make sure students are getting the important information. A series of bad quiz grades could be another indication that students are merely copying the outlines rather than taking substantive notes.

## Reading Assignments

The primary texts, literature texts, and supplementary books are listed at the beginning of each grading period. Each lesson plan includes the specific reading assignments in the primary texts to be completed before listening to the lecture.

### Literature Text

A specific literature text is assigned for each grading period. The literature text is also listed in each lesson plan as a reminder that the student should be reading through the text on a regular basis. Please note that specific page assignments are not given, so the student should plan a schedule of reading which will enable him to finish both the literature text and his own choice of a supplemental book during the grading period. The lectures essentially assume familiarity with the literature and then build upon themes within the literature.

### Supplemental Reading

A list of Supplemental Reading choices relating to the time period or topic being studied is given at the beginning of the First Semester Lesson Plans.

Preceding each title is a symbol that classifies the level of each book. A Celtic cross (☩) indicates that the book may be chosen by either level of students. A crossed box (☒) indicates that the book is on the Upper Division level (grades 11, 12). A checked box (☑) indicates that the book is acceptable for Lower Division students only (grades 9, 10). Some examples are below.

- ☩ *The Great Evangelical Disaster*, Francis Schaeffer (Crossway)
- ☩ *Modern Fascism*, Gene Edward Veith (Concordia)
- ☒ *The Malakand Field Force*, W. Churchill (Barnes & Noble)
- ☒ *Fear God and Take Your Own Part*, T. Roosevelt (Nebraska)
- ☒ *The Southern Tradition at Bay*, Richard Weaver (Regnery)
- ☑ *The Panama Canal*, R. Stein (Sonlight)
- ☑ *On the Sommes*, Claire Hayes (Applewood)

## Reading Journal

Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, often said, "Thoughts tend to disentangle themselves when they flow over the tip of a pencil."

The reading journal is a book or notebook reserved only for writing reflections on one's reading, thus organizing and giving coherence to one's thoughts. The use of a reading journal also promotes good writing skills by providing the impetus to write daily.

Each student should keep a reading journal of some sort, a book or notebook reserved only for writing journal entries. At the end of each month the teacher/mentor should collect the reading journal for a class participation grade.

For the purpose of the Gileskirk study, the journal entries should be reflections on readings in the textbook assignment, the literature selection, or the supplementary reading book. The student should discuss his thoughts on the ideas, themes, and characters in the books; journal entries should not be what he did that day, what TV show he is watching, or other “mental laundry.” At Franklin Classical School, the literature assignments are coordinated with the Literature and Composition classes.

High school students are expected to write about a page, approximately two hundred to two hundred fifty words; junior high students should write one-half of a page. These amounts can be adjusted to the ability of the student, but each student should start slowly and increase in length and substance over the course of the year. Students should be required to make five journal entries a week, which gives them Sundays off and one other day of their choosing. A quick pop-check of journals, before their normal collection at the end of the month, reveals more accurately who keeps up with their journals and who is waiting until the night before journals are due.

Reading journals are excellent for integration, especially with English classes. Teachers in other classes can provide specific directions or assignments, such as discussing a particular style, character, event, idea, etc. Homework of this type can also help new or younger students learn how to write in their journals.

### **Recitations & Handouts**

Recitations serve several functions in Gileskirk courses. Primarily, they provide an exercise in memorization. However, they also introduce students to important works of literature, notable prayers, significant ideas, etc.

It is suggested that you determine weekly recitations that suit your own situation. Some basic ideas would include Scripture, parts of significant modernity speeches, etc.

Other handouts, such as maps, are occasionally provided to reinforce a particular idea or topic. The instructions for and significance of the handout is explained in the lecture.

### **Quizzes**

Approximately every other lesson plan will include a quiz that should be taken before listening to the lecture which it accompanies. The quizzes reinforce important information from the previous lectures and reading assignments; therefore, a particular question may appear on three or four quizzes. Students should correct their old quizzes so they may use them to study for future quizzes and the exams.

In his classes, Dr. Grant always refers to quizzes as “opportunities” because they are opportunities for students to show what they know. Such a euphemism is usually greeted with groans, but students eventually use the new name. While you certainly don’t have to continue this tradition, don’t get confused if, during a lecture, you hear a reference to an “opportunity”—it simply means a quiz.

Each quiz has a corresponding key (see *Appendix A and C*) with all of the answers for each question. The best possible answer is provided. Deduct points according to an answer's proximity to the ideal answer. On discussion questions, the salient points that are required for full credit are listed, but the answer still needs to be in correct, full sentences and/or paragraphs—not bullets or a list. Many quiz questions have two parts: list and describe or list and identify. If a student does not do both, he loses half of the points. For more information on grading quizzes, see *Grading the Material* below.

## Exams

Two major exams, the Midterm and the Final, are given for this study. *Appendix B* and *Appendix D* are comprised of the exams, exam keys, and the study guides (if available) for these major tests. See *Grading the Material* for information on how to average the midterm and final exam scores into the grades for the year.

In the lesson plans, there are instructions for giving the study guides to the students for test preparation. Students are to find the definitions, answers, etc. from the opportunities and class notes. Encourage the formation of study groups so that students can share knowledge and study together. Set aside class time to answer students' questions in the event they are unable to locate all of the information. Also, plan to discuss the main ideas in the literary works itemized on the study guides.

The midterm exam is given after the first semester of study. It is comprehensive. Allow 2 to 4 hours for students to complete the exam. After grading the midterm, return it to students as it will be a valuable study guide for the final exam. The final is given at the end of the year and is also comprehensive. Again, allow 2 to 4 hours for the exam.

## Projects

Projects, whether monthly or quarterly, are an important part of the course. They are not only a significant portion of students' grades, but also they engage the more creative side of the students, which is especially important for students who are less academically inclined. The required projects are described at the beginning of First Semester Lesson Plans. The 40 Hour Project synthesizes all of the different areas and ideas which have been studied during the course of the year, but each student should also design this project along the lines of his own interests. Projects should always be presented before an audience, even if it is a family and some friends; such an atmosphere makes the students do a better job and gives them an opportunity to work on their oratory skills

## Grading the Material

### Grading Percentages

The course grade breaks down according to the following percentages:

25% Class participation	Homework and class participation
25% Tests	Opportunities and Tests
25% Projects	Projects and their presentation
25% Reading Journal	Journal entries for Humanities and Literature classes

Exam scores at Franklin Classical School are figured in to the grades according to the following policies: each quarter in a semester counts either 40% or 45% and the midterm and final exams count 20% or 10%. You are free to create you own percentages on the exams, but we strongly encourage you to keep the other percentages for participation, quizzes, and projects intact. The ratios ensure the proper emphasis, and in particular, they prevent the quiz scores from becoming the majority of the grade.

### Grading Quizzes

The quizzes are an important part of the course, but they are a means to an end. Students should be graded fairly severely on the quizzes, especially after the first quarter, as an impetus to study and memorize the material well. Students are forced to ingest the information; however, the real goal is to get the students to digest it—to think through the material critically. Therefore, discussion questions are almost always weighted more than questions that ask students merely to identify or define a word.

Some students consistently fail quizzes because they do not put the necessary effort into studying. Other students try but have more difficulty performing well on written tests. Unless a student has a problem memorizing or a disability, he should be allowed to have poor quiz grades if he is not willing to exert the effort to learn the material. Most students will improve and should be encouraged in that goal, yet the students that typically do poorly on the quizzes usually do very well on projects and journals. Some of that higher quality work is out of necessity, but it generally occurs because less academic students shine during projects and in their journal writing, which is another reason why journals, projects, and quizzes are weighted equally. Students who do well on quizzes usually get slightly above average marks on projects and in journals, at the very least. Therefore, be as lenient as possible within strict standards for quiz grades, give partial credit as much as possible, and encourage students that the quizzes are conquerable, although it may take the better part of the year for some.

### Adapting Material for Junior High Students

All of the lectures and quizzes in this curriculum come from the high school version of Franklin Classical School’s Humanities course. However, the course can be adapted to a junior high level. The reading lists choices for Lower Division

can be used by junior high students, and the quizzes can be adapted. Parents will need to take a more active part with the younger students: helping them read and understand the selections, making sure the students take good notes, helping the students manage their study time, reviewing major points for discussion questions. This increased participation is especially true at the beginning of the course.

Adapt quizzes for junior high students by reducing the number or length of answers required, for example, by allowing junior high students to skip five answers. *Please note that skipping five answers is very different from skipping five questions, since the quiz questions almost always consist of multiple answers, usually three to five points that must be listed and described.* Each answer point skipped counts as one skip. If students skip a question asking for the name of the Axis countries, three skips are used. Discussion questions cannot be counted as a skip; however, if a question asks for a one-page answer then junior high students need only write a one-half page answer. If the senior high students are supposed to answer four questions with a one-half page each, junior high student should only answer two with a one-half page each.

One final note on grading quizzes for junior high students is that the answers given on the keys should be viewed differently. If the student gives the main idea, full credit is usually given.

# Advice to the Teacher

## *Practical Tips & Wisdom for Gileskirk Teachers*

### **Start Slowly**

Gileskirk Humanities Curricula are challenging because of the reading requirements, the amount of information, and an approach that radically differs from most classes students have taken. Adjusting to all of these characteristics at once can be overwhelming for students. Therefore, we suggest that you spend extra time on the first few lectures and reading assignments. After listening to the tape, go over the main points yourself, and make sure the students understand them. Discuss the reading to ensure their comprehension. If necessary, decrease the amount of writing required in their journals during the first few weeks. If possible, give an early quiz a second time. Be patient with students who are using Gileskirk materials for the first time. While you should certainly expect them to improve, help your students make the adjustment as smoothly as possible. Try to find the balance between keeping the standard high and realizing that anything worthwhile takes time to develop. What you students can handle at the beginning of the year is not as important as what they can accomplish at the end.

### **Persevere**

Since this course is much more challenging than most, many students will be overwhelmed. They will complain; they will refuse to do their work; some may shut down. The beginning of a new school year always means that we literally have students in tears every night for the first few weeks. We even have parents in tears at the start. Teachers, you may receive anxious phone calls from parents. Your course will not be any different.

What students need most is encouragement and confidence. Most have never had to do this amount of work for any one class; some have never had to do it in all of their classes combined. Students will be quite earnest when they say they cannot do it. Parents will be earnest when they say their students cannot do it. The students truly believe that they cannot because they have never had to.

But they are wrong.

The students may need to be shown step-by-step how to complete some of the assignments, just to prevent them from becoming paralyzed by not knowing where to begin. A special class on study skills or time management can help tremendously. Keep the students working, encouraging them to do as much as they can, and they will eventually surpass your expectations.

*One final word of caution:* Some students who really try may not do well the entire year, especially ones that are a little less mature or that are slower readers. However, if they can persevere, our experience has been that they do well the next year.

## **Avoiding Burnout**

The intensity of this course causes most students to burn out at some point during the year—your students are not immune to it. How can you minimize burnout? Every few months, try to vary the pace a little. Lighten the homework. Take a day off from the tapes and get a guest lecturer to cover some related topic. Or if you can find a good film adaptation of one of the literature texts, watch it in class or go to the theatre (Teachers must carefully screen anything before they show it to the class or take a field trip—we speak from experience)

## **Adapting This Course**

Just as every student is different, so schools and classes are different. Each has its own peculiar make-up. Consequently, you may have to alter this course. Adding a ten or fifteen minute literature discussion period, so students can ask questions about the reading assignments (primary texts, literature or supplemental reading) can be helpful. You may want to require all students to read the same supplementary reading book, so you can discuss it in class. Do they need to take a quiz home for homework? Do they need to take a quiz over, or correct the wrong answers for a grade? You know your students best; this is your course—adapt it to your students’ weaknesses and strengths. Maintain the high standards, but wisely have compassion when necessary. Always encourage them, and tell them they can make it.

## **Mentoring & Discipleship**

No matter how good the teaching, a tape or video is never an adequate replacement for a real person. Why? Biblical education is passed from one generation to the next, person to person. We believe that for students to care about education they must have a teacher who cares about them. As G.K. Chesterton said so well, “The most important fact about the subject of education is that there is no such thing. Education is not a subject, and it does not deal in subjects. It is instead the transfer of a way of life.”

Although Dr. Grant is the taped lecturer, parents and teachers are the primary mentors or disciplers. You are attempting to inculcate a love of learning, a passion for books and reading, and a particular worldview, one that recognizes Christ’s Lordship over all of Creation.

## What Is Really Important?

The following is an excerpt from one of Dr. Grant’s King’s Meadow Study Center brochures concerning classical education—it will provide an overview of what should be our approach to this course:

*“Somehow, our whole approach to teaching and learning has gone awry. Do you sometimes have an uneasy suspicion that the product of modern educational methods is less good than he or she might be at disentangling fact from opinion and the proven from the plausible? Although we often succeed in teaching our pupils subjects, we fail lamentably on the whole in teaching them how to think. They learn everything except the art of learning.”*  
Dorothy Sayers

A commitment to an integrated Humanities curriculum is the foundation upon which all the [courses] are built. In other words, our courses of study are examinations of our culture emphasizing the basic classical scholastic approach of moral philosophy—thus equipping students with the tools for a lifetime of learning: a working knowledge of the timetables of history, a background understanding of the great literary classics, a familiarity with the sweep of art, music, and ideas, a worldview comprehension of basic geography, a principle approach to discerning the significance of current events, and an emphasis on a Christian life paradigm. The idea is to study human achievement in context—both in terms of its historical and societal sequence and in terms of its providential and cultural importance. Out of this integrated understanding of God’s world every other subject and discipline is informed.

In practical terms, what does this mean? The most crucial information a student can learn from a lecture is not the multitude of facts—neither the names, the dates, nor the events. All of these derive their importance because they are a means to an end. The crucial part of the lecture is the big picture, the point of which is usually listed or discussed briefly at the end of the lecture. As much as Dr. Grant admires Bonnie Prince Charlie, Teddy Roosevelt, and G.K. Chesterton, he does not want students to learn all of the details of their lives. Instead, he tells stories about those people so students may understand their principles, their beliefs, and their worldviews.

Therefore, questions on quizzes focus more on the significance of individuals’ lives, the fundamental characteristics of philosophies, the key points of a document. Dates and peoples’ names are pegs to help order all of the information so the students have a general understanding of the flow of time; what is more important is how the event on that date changed Europe or how a particular person altered the culture.

Some will argue that details are important. Some will say that students need to know these facts. True, and Gileskirk students will learn many facts, but

secondary students need to be moved beyond just facts; they need to learn about worldviews and how to read critically. If they forget a fact, they can look it up; when they do, they will be able to determine the bias of the book they are using and the worldview of the author. Such skill in discerning and understanding will not be forgotten.

### **Understanding Humanities & Moral Philosophy**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century modernist approach to history is reflected in the name that their historians give it: Social Science. The modernist, to whom science is god, views people as machines. However, the philosophical view of history that under-girds all Gileskirk curricula is Moral Philosophy. It treats history more like an art or philosophy in that both require judgement, wisdom, and moral beliefs, not mere data. Moral philosophy recognizes that people are not reducible to a set of scientifically quantifiable laws and formulas. Humanity is more complex than that; therefore, history is, too.

Moral Philosophy teaches us lessons. We can see that unaided human efforts can create a Roman Empire but cannot sustain it. We can see the reflection of a leader's disobedience to God in the culture and society of the nation as a whole. We can learn how the Church throughout the ages has served her Lord. We gain a perspective removed from our own time, which helps us discern the faults and false philosophies of the culture around us. History does repeat itself only as much as there is nothing new under the sun, for Man has not changed.

Moral philosophy provides heroes, not celebrities; it proclaims men evil and guilty, not troubled in their youth. Moral philosophy is a substantive examination from whence we have come, so we can see where we are and where we will be. It is an attempt to learn from the sins and accomplishments of our forefathers just as the Israelites were to learn from the monuments made to God and from the Feast of the Passover. God has done great things for His people throughout history. His Hand brings events to pass as He works out the salvation of His children. Moral philosophy views history in light of this great Truth.

## Classical and Covenantal

*“Suffer not any beloved study to prejudice your mind so far in favor of it as to despise all other learning. This is a fault of some little souls who have got a smattering of astronomy, metaphysics, history, or music and for want of due acquaintance with other arts, make a scoff at them all in comparison with their favorite.” Isaac Watts*

Christian classical education appears to be the “next new thing.” It is the very latest rage at curriculum fairs, academic conferences, and professional conventions. In fact though, it is anything but “new.” Indeed, Christian classical education is the age old foundation upon which the entire Western academic tradition has been built.

The now carelessly discarded traditional medieval *Trivium*—emphasizing the basic classical scholastic categories of grammar, logic, and rhetoric—equipped generations of students with the tools for a lifetime of learning: a working knowledge of the timetables of history, a background understanding of the great literary classics, a structural competency in Greek and Latin-based grammars, a familiarity with the sweep of art, music, and ideas, a grasp of research and writing skills, a worldview comprehension for math and science basics, a principle approach to current events, and an emphasis on a Christian life paradigm.

So, what is classical education? Very simply, it is a conscious return to those academic disciplines and methodologies—the very notions that helped to spark the great cultural flowering of Western Christendom over the past thousand years—emphasizing the basic thinking and character skills necessary to launch young men and women on a lifetime journey of growth and learning. It is an approach that involves a good deal of hard work—as does anything worthwhile—but it is not a system of education for intellectuals only. Rather classical education is a simple affirmation that all of us need to be grounded in the good things, the great things, the true things.

Similarly, covenantal methodologies are integral aspects of Christendom’s great legacy of truth. Recognizing that all true education is the undertaking of mental and spiritual discipleship, covenantal learning—centered in intimate interpersonal, tutorial, and familial relationships—reinforces both the authority and the responsibility of parents in the process of training the next generation of leaders. Education is not an object, a product, or an outcome. It is the fruit of diligence and faithfulness in rightly-related individuals. As Susan Schaeffer Macaulay has said, “Education is an adventure that has to do with central themes, not the particular packages a given generation puts them into. It’s about people, children, life, and reality.”

So, what is covenantal education? Very simply, it is a conscious return to the Scriptural mandates, jurisdictions, and relationships that are at the heart of any true discipling endeavor. It is the celebration of loving one another well and investing in one another substantively, sacrificially, and Scripturally.

The incomparable Dorothy Sayers once asserted, “Somehow, our whole approach to teaching and learning has gone awry. Do you sometimes have an uneasy suspicion that the product of modern educational methods is less good than he or she might be at

disentangling fact from opinion and the proven from the plausible? Although we often succeed in teaching our pupils *subjects*, we fail lamentably on the whole in teaching them how to think. They learn everything except the art of learning.”

With the utter failure of most modern educational methodologies finally evident to all but the most hardened bureaucrat, the serious academic rigor, tutorial discipling, and familial involvement of the past are once again in vogue. Thankfully, the Christian vision of classical and covenantal education is back—and it is back with a vengeance.

## Keeping Covenant: A Theology of Education

*“If you want facts, you can look in any encyclopedia. If you want truth, you must look elsewhere.”—Leland Ryken*

As a confession of our faith, testimony to the world, and instruction to all true believers, the board of the King’s Meadow Study Center board and the faculty of Bannockburn College affirm the historic Christian conviction that the Lord has appointed to parents the responsibility and final authority to secure, guide and control the education of their children, that they might be delightfully trained regarding this world and in all areas of life to think God’s thoughts after Him and walk in all His ways. Man was created, as God’s likeness and for God’s glory, to study, subdue and develop the world in which God placed him (Gen. 1: 26-28). Naturally, from the very beginning, it was a task which belonged to parents to instill this perspective in their children and help them to pursue it. Ethical rebellion against God has resulted in a curse on mankind (Gen. 3: 17-19) which is experienced not only spiritually (Rom. 8: 5-8; Eph. 2: 1-4) but also intellectually (Rom. 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 2: 14; Eph. 4: 17-18), and which introduces an unavoidable antithesis between those antagonistic to God and those who belong to the promised Savior (Gen. 3:15).

The task of pursuing proper knowledge of the world and developing a God-glorifying culture therein thus encounters tremendous obstacles and distortions, making it imperative that parents educate their children within the perspective and power of God’s revelation and grace. The redemption which Christ has secured for us saves us, not only spiritually, from the wrath to come, but also delivers us from intellectual futility and foolish reasoning in our methods of learning about the world in which we presently live.

Genuine knowledge of any subject whatsoever begins with reverence and submission to God (Prov. 1: 7), particularly the fundamentals and philosophy which adhere to the Triune Lord rather than the fallen world or human traditions (Col. 2: 8; 1 Tim. 6: 20). It is the word of God which sets apart His people in the truth (John 17: 17). Thus neutrality in education is not only impossible (Matt. 12: 30), but immoral (Jas. 4: 4). Accordingly, the aim of Christian parents must be to encourage their children to “bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Cor. 10: 5), “in whom are deposited all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2: 3). Only if they are first disciples of Christ will they know the truth and enjoy real freedom (John 8: 31-32).

Therefore, from the very beginning of history, then especially with the introduction of man’s rebellion against God, and as well in light of the fundamental nature of any genuine knowledge, it is a parental duty to train and educate their children, regardless of the subject matter, in the nurture of the Lord and the light of His Revelation (Eph. 6: 4; Prov. 5: 1-2; Ps. 36: 9).

The responsibility rehearsed here has been part of the confession of faith of God’s people from the earliest days, indeed it has been a primary application of the first and great commandment (Deut. 6: 4-5; Matt. 22: 37-38). It thus clearly constitutes a central

element in what it means for those who are saved to keep covenant with God: “And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently unto your children.” This teaching is to be enjoined constantly and consistently, in every time and place, covering all the spheres of human thought, activity and living (Deut. 6: 6-9). Note that this responsibility has been assigned directly by God to parents, rather than any other institution of society. The Christian school is therefore but an adjunct of the parents in the fulfillment of their great task.

Regardless, then, of whatever children learn—the wonders of math and science, the delights of history and language, and the marvels of art and music—parents have a God-given duty to see to it that their children learn it with the perspective and application of the Christian worldview as derived from God’s Revelation so that they might joyously walk in God’s gracious covenant as faithful disciples of the Sovereign Lord.

**CHRISTENDOM TEXTS**

The following texts are the ones that Dr. Grant chose for the 2004-2005 school year which correspond with the Christendom Version II lectures. However, he has utilized other titles successfully in the past. You might want to consider alternative titles as well as additional works for your students. In addition to their history texts, students should be reading approximately two books a month, depending on length. If you are working within a co-op or classroom situation, we would highly recommend that the students be required to read the same texts as each other so that they can benefit from discussion and instruction.

- Lower Division (grades 9, 10)
- Upper Division (grades 11, 12)
- ✦ Both Lower and Upper Division

**Primary Textbooks (Christendom Version II)**

- ✦ *The History of Christianity* (Edited by Tim Dowley)
- ✦ *Common Roots* (Compiled by George Grant and Greg Wilbur)

**Literature Texts (Christendom Version II)**

- ✦ *Confessions*, Augustine
- ✦ *Beowulf* (Translated by Seamus Heaney)
- ✦ *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Edited by J.R.R. Tolkien)
- ✦ *Inferno*, Dante Alighieri
- ✦ *The Talisman*, Walter Scott
- ✦ *Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer
- ✦ *Dr. Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe
- ✦ *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan
- ✦ *The Norton Anthology of Poetry, Shorter 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> edition*

**General Alternative Titles—Literature or Supplemental**

- ✦ *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, Bede
- ✦ *Saga of the Volsungs* (Jesse L. Byock)
- ✦ *Paradise Lost*, John Milton
- ✦ *On the Incarnation*, Athanasius
- ✦ *King Arthur and His Knights*, Thomas Mallory
- ✦ *Henry V*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *Don Quixote*, Miguel De Cervantes
- ✦ *Purgatorio & Paradiso*, Dante Alighieri
- ✦ *Tales of a Scottish Grandfather*, Walter Scott
- ✦ *For Kirk and Covenant*, Douglas Wilson
- ✦ *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, Francis of Assisi
- ✦ *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions and Death's Duel*, John Donne

**Supplemental Reading Suggestions (Divided Topically by Time Periods Covered)**

- The Republic*, Plato
- Rhetoric and Poetics*, Aristotle
- The Aeneid*, Virgil
- The City of God*, Augustine
- Alexander Schmemman: *Historical Road of Eastern Orthodoxy*
- Quo Vadis*, Heinrik Sienkiewicz
- Ben Hur*, Lew Wallace
- The Robe*, Lloyd Douglas

- ☑ *Anthony and Cleopatra*, William Shakespeare
  
- ✦ *An Anthology of Medieval Lyrics*, Angel Flores
- ✦ *Angels in the Architecture*, Doug Jones and Doug Wilson
- ☑ *Aquinas and the Theory of Beauty*, Umberto Eco
  
- ✦ *Once and Future King*, T.H. White
- ☑ *The Church History*, Eusebius
- ☑ *The Rule of St. Benedict*, (Translated by Timothy Fry)
- ☑ *History of the Kings of Britain*, Geoffrey of Monmouth
- ☑ *The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology*, (Translated by Kevin Crossley-Holland)
- ☑ *Alfred the Great* (Translated by Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge)
- ☑ *Tales from English History, Vol. I*, Robert Lacey
- ☑ *The Dragon and the Raven*, G.A. Henty
- ☑ *St. Francis of Assisi*, G.K. Chesterton
  
- ✦ *The Quest for the Holy Grail* (Translated by P.M. Matarasso)
- ✦ *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare
- ☑ *The Mabinogion*, (Translated by Jeffrey Gantz)
- ☑ *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Boethius
- ☑ *Fourteen Byzantine Rulers*, Michael Psellus
- ☑ *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, Howard Pyle
- ☑ *Black Arrow*, Robert L. Stevenson
  
- ✦ *Richard III*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *The Song of Roland*, (Translated by Dorothy Sayers)
- ✦ *Ivanhoe*, Walter Scott
- ✦ *Fair Maid of Perth*, Walter Scott
- ☑ *Chronicles of the Crusades*, Joinville & Villehardouin (Margaret Shaw, translator)
- ☑ *The Crusades*, Hillaire Belloc
- ☑ *A Shorter Summa*, Thomas Aquinas (Peter Kreeft, editor)
- ☑ *A Bloody Field by Shrewsbury*, Edith Pargeter
- ☑ *A Distant Mirror*, Barbara Tuchman
  
- ✦ *Golden Book of the True Christian Life*, John Calvin
- ✦ *Imitation of Christ*, Thomas A Kempis
- ✦ *Bondage of the Will*, Martin Luther
- ✦ *In Praise of Folly*, Desiderius Erasmus
- ☑ *Liturgies of the Western Church*, Bard Thompson
- ☑ *Faith and Freedom*, Martin Luther (John Thornton, Susan Varenne, editors)
- ☑ *Fierce Wars and Faithful Loves*, Edmund Spencer (Roy Maynard, editor)
  
- ✦ *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *Othello*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *King Lear*, William Shakespeare
- ✦ *Much Ado About Nothing*, William Shakespeare
- ☑ *Herbert: Poems*, George Herbert (Everyman)
- ☑ *Milton: Poems*, John Milton (Everyman)
- ☑ *Tractate on Education*, John Milton
  
- ✦ *Waverly*, Walter Scott
- ✦ *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe
- ✦ *Midwinter*, John Buchan

- Utopia*, Thomas More
- The Prince*, Niccolo Machiavelli
- Bonnie Prince Charlie*, G.A. Henty
- In Freedom's Cause*, G.A. Henty