Lyceum Program Description

Purpose
The Lyceum is a program--required for St. Francis Scholars and open to anyone with counselor and parent approval--with the primary intention of cultivating an entry into deep thinking, a sense of wonder, and a pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness in the context of the Catholic intellectual tradition*. Students in grades 9 &10 engage with classical and sacred texts and classical and sacred art to elevate their thinking and approach their education with a sense of awe and wonder as a basis. Upper-Class students reflect upon–and draw from–what they have discovered from the previous two courses to develop critical theory and find meaning in existence.

All St. Francis Scholars are required to take this three-course progression. Other non-SFS students interested in taking the courses should contact Michael O'Brien.

Grades 9 and 10 Lyceum classes will meet from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in Room 114 or 222 on alternating Mondays. The upper-division seminar will meet in the Library, 6:00-8:00 pm one Monday per month.

Progression
Students begin with Truth as a major thematic focus and progress into Beauty, Goodness, and in their final year, work on a project that ties all three themes together into a culminating presentation that examines their work, their wonder, and their hopes for the future with regards to scholarship, service, and vocation.

T R U T H – Students study works of Plato and Aristotle with a view towards explaining St. Thomas Aquinas's proofs in Summa Theologica. Students will conduct an analysis of Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," Aristotle's treatment of Justice, Happiness, and the Concept of the soul. Students are given an introduction into foundational texts in pursuit of truth in the Western Tradition. ***Required for Frosh Scholars in the Spring.***

B E A U T Y – "The Inner Design of the Fabric of Creation." Students begin to view the order of creation in mathematical and aesthetic terms. Students also engage with classical art and architecture and sacred art and architecture in defining beauty. The course begins with the "Pythagorean Spirit" with a view towards identifying mathematical order in God's creation. ***Required for Sophomore Scholars in the Fall.***

G O O D N E S S – "The Good Life" Theme is an examination of vocation, service, and the pursuit of God. Students will consider contemporary physics and cosmology, along with treatises and testimonies from John Paul II, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aqinas, St Therese of Lisieux, and Thomas Merton (among others), while posing questions about the meaning of redemption--merging empirical and faith-based evidence in a quest to uncover the purpose of existence. The format is largely dialogue/discussion-based, requiring some journaling and a final essay, with attendance and engagement being the most critical factors. ***Monthly Seminar for Upper Class Scholars in the Fall of either the Junior or Senior year.***

Grading
Students are graded on an A-I scale for these 2-Unit courses (1 Unit for "The Good Life"). Grading on essays and projects carry similar expectations as would be expected for honors- or AP- level work, as it si these assignments that carry the weight of the course grade. This means that projects and essays must represent the students' very best work and indicate close reading of the texts and careful consideration of the elements of composition. Students' participation in dialogue and inquiry are even more crucial to and will also be factored into the grading.

Texts: All texts and media will be supplied by the school. They include, but are not limited to:

Aristotle. *Nichomachean Ethics*; *De Anima (On the Soul)*; *Metaphysics*.
Augustine. *Confessions*.
Bergson, Henri. *Creative Evolution*
Caldecott, Stratford. *Beauty for Truth's Sake*.
Introduction to Aristotle's Ethics. Hillsdale College. "The Good."
James, Henry. "The Real Thing," "The Tree of Knowledge"
Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man; Dubliners*
Lisieux, Therese de. *The Story of a Soul*.
Melville, Herman. *Moby-Dick,* "Bartleby: A Story of Wall-Street."
Merton, Thomas. *The Seven Storey Mountain*.
Milton, John. *Paradise Lost*
Newman, John Henry. *The Idea of a University*
O'Connor, Flannery. *The Complete Stories*
Pieper, Josef. *Leisure as the Basis of Culture*.
Plato. *The Republic*.
Pope, Alexander. *Essay on Man*
Pope John Paul II. *Vocation*, "Jubilee of Scientists"
Porter, Katherine Anne. "The Fig Tree"
Saward, John. *The Beauty of Holiness and the Holiness of Beauty*.
Schweitzer, Paul. "Mathematics, Reality, and God."
The Thomistic Institute. Lecture series on St. Thomas Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologica*.

Works of Art:

"Angel." Abbott Handerson Thayer
"Christ of Saint John of the Cross." Salvador Dali
"The Angelus." Jean Francois-Millet
"The Death of Socrates." Jacques-Louis David
The Sistine Chapel. Michaelangelo
"The Last Supper." Leonardo da Vinci
"The Return of the Prodigal Son." Rembrandt
"The School of Athens," "St. George and the Dragon." Raphael
"Pieta." Michaelangelo
"Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog." Caspar David Friedrich
"Gerechtigkeitsbrunnen." Hans Gieng
Sainte Chapelle. Paris

Sample Frosh Schedule (Spring)

Lyceum: An Examination of Truth

Classes will meet from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on alternating Mondays in Room 114 or 222

Forum 1--Objective: Introduction to T R U T H and the essential questions. Reading "Allegory of the Cave" from The Republic
Forum 2--Objective: Perform an analysis of the "Allegory of the Cave" by depicting the scene and presenting on the rendering
Forum 3--Objective: Aristotle – Nichomachean Ethics. Students interpret "Good" according to Aristotle.
Forum 4--Objective: Aristotle – "Virtue & Wealth".
Forum 5--Objective: "Justice". Students discuss, define, and dialogue on the meaning of justice and apply Gieng's symbolism
Forum 6--Objective: Aristotle – "De Anima"
Forum 7–Objective: "De Anima" & St. Augistine
Forum 8--Objective: St. Thomas Aquinas – "Commentary on Aristotle"; apply Thomistic interpretation of the soul; Jonathan Edwards
Forum 9--Objective: Aristotle – "Happiness"; Define happiness according to Aristotle
Forum 10--Objective: Know thyself. Examination of Conscience…Galatians 5:16; The interior life as explained through Plato, Aquinas, and Aristotle. Alexander Pope. Finding truth in Christ.

Sample Sophomore Schedule (Fall)

Lyceum: Beauty and Creation

Classes will meet from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on alternating Mondays in Room 114 or 222

Forum 1--Objective: Introduction to B E A U T Y and the essential questions. “The Pythagorean Spirit”
Forum 2--Objective: Plato – “Timaeus”
Forum 3--Objective: Plato – “Republic, V, VII” Students make connections between Schweitzer and Plato’s Theory of Forms.
Forum 4--Objective: Aristotle – “Metaphysics, XIII”. The Good and the Beautiful
Forum 5--Objective: Aristotle – Revisit “Nicomachean Ethics” & “De Anima” Students search for and discuss the Aristotelian theory of Beauty
Forum 6–Objective: Aristotle – “Parva Naturalia”
Forum 7--Objective: Aristotle – “On Breath.”
Forum 8–Objective: St. Thomas Aquinas – *Summa Theologica* “Beauty is a Kind of Knowledge”
Forum 9–Objective: Caldecott & Seward – Beauty, Truth, & Holiness
Forum 10--Objective: Developing a Philosophic Proof

Sample Junior/Senior Schedule (Fall)

Lyceum: The Good Life

Lyceum classes will meet from 6:00 - 8:00 pm monthly on Mondays in the Library

Forum 1--Objective: Reflect upon an assigned literary work (Flannery O’Connor, J.D. Salinger, Henry James, et al) in relation to the confluence of science and faith.
Forum 2--Objective: Investigating The Shroud of Turin
Forum 3--Objective: Expansion into Cosmology with Pope John Paul II
Forum 4--Objective: Clarity in the Ascetic Life: St. Therese and Thomas Merton
Forum 5--Objective: Striking a Balance–Newman, Pope, Bergson

*The Catholic intellectual tradition refers to “the classic treasures to be cherished, studied, and handed on; and the way of doing things that is the outcome of centuries of experience, prayer, action, and critical reflection” (Hellwig, 2000, Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition).