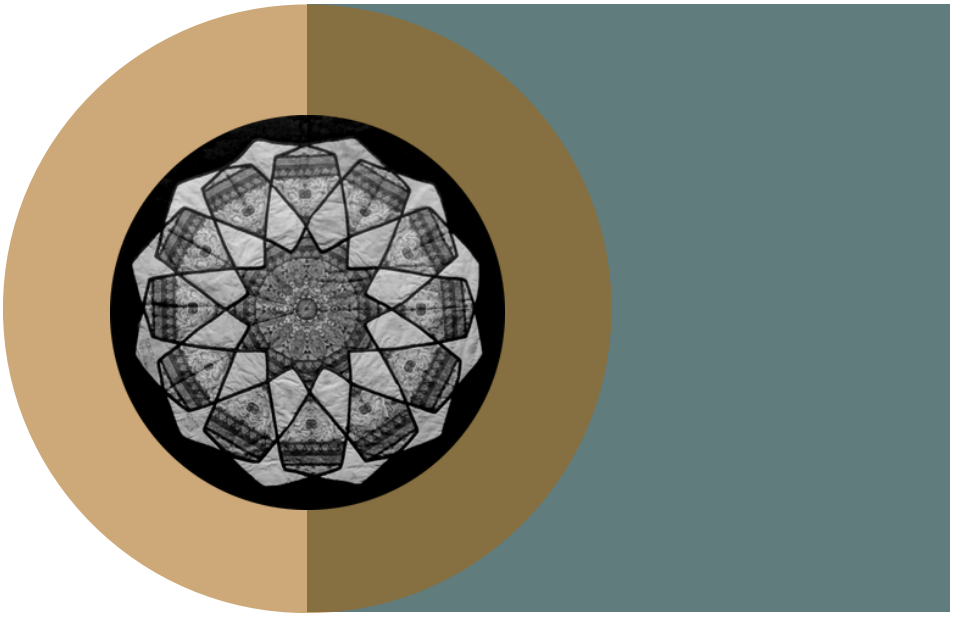
Knowledge Arts Interiority



THE PROGRAM EXPOSES STUDENTS TO SALIENT ARTISTIC / INTELLECTUAL WORKS AND PROVIDES THE CONCEPTUAL TOOLS NEEDED TO CRITICALLY ANALYZE THEM TOGETHER WITH SHARED EXPERIENCES OF SILENCE/MEDITATION.

Sinclètica
escola monàstica

Monestir de Sant Benet de Montserrat
2024-2026

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Structure

4 MODULES / 18 TOPICS

The modules address the four basic dimensions of human consciousness:

PERSONAL: know thyself - fulfilment - suffering - solitude

INTERPERSONAL: love - forgiveness - freedom - innocence

TRANSCENDENT: grace - community - truth - justice

IMMANENT: humility - word - prayer - meaning

Each of these 16 topics plus the 2 central topics of silence and joy will be developed by means of eight monthly lectures distributed between a Saturday (2 lectures) and a full weekend (6 lectures).

Each monthly lecture corresponds to one of 8 distinctive intellectual / artistic perspectives (see below).

8 PERSPECTIVES

LITERATURE - FINE ARTS - MUSIC - BIBLE - THEOLOGY- SCIENCE - PHILOSOPHY - POLITICS

These perspectives are presented as equal in practical and conceptual terms and have equal lecture time. Bible and Theology are not included to provide answers to the questions raised by the Sciences or the Humanities, but all eight perspectives are expected to challenge and sustain each other in a common quest for meaning. Students are thus invited to interact beyond all disciplinary boundaries in a lively spiritual dialogue and to critically analyze some of the basic aspects of our common humanity.

Methodology

Each professor is required to focus her/his lecture on A PEARL of her/his choice. The PEARL is not an idea, but a concrete fruit of the human spirit, for example a novel, a poem, a painting, a sculpture, a movie, a piece of music, a scientific experiment, an essay or a social experience.

In order for it to be an authentic PEARL, the professor has to have a subjective link to it, that is, at some point, she/he should have learnt from it something personally valuable about the topic at hand.

Each PEARL will be analyzed in depth during the lecture and afterwards the students will engage critically with it in small group discussions. At the end of each month, students will have been exposed to eight salient examples of how the human spirit in its creativity has dealt with the topic at hand. A one-hour interdisciplinary discussion will take place at the closure of each topic. All professors and all students are expected to be present and active in it.

PROGRAM

Academic requirements for admission

- Students may enroll as Full-students or Audit-students.
- To enroll as a Full-student, applicants need a bachelor or a higher degree.
- To enroll as an Audit-student, no academic requirements apply.

Practical information

- Students in both modalities (Full and Audit) may register for on-site or online learning (Registrar's Office: ginascr@sincletica.cat).
- The on-site lectures will take place at Villa Engràcia (villaengracia.com), next to the medieval monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet (poblet.com).
- The language of teaching and learning is English.
- All lectures will be video-taped and subtitled into English, Catalan and Spanish for later viewing.

Calendar

YEAR 2024-25			YEAR 2025-26	
12 / 25-27	KNOW THYSELF	october	18 / 24-26	SUFFERING
16 / 22-24	LOVE	november	15 / 21-23	FREEDOM
07 / 13-15	GRACE	december	06 / 12-14	TRUTH
11 / 17-19	HUMILITY	january	10 / 16-18	PRAYER
08 / 14-16	SILENCE	february	07 / 13-15	JOY
08 / 14-16	WORD	march	07 / 13-15	MEANING
29*/ 04-06	COMMUNITY	april	11 / 17-19	JUSTICE
03/ 16-18	FORGIVENESS	may	09 / 15-17	INNOCENCE
07 / 13-15	FULFILMENT	june	06 / 12-14	SOLITUDE

* march 29th

PERSONAL

KNOW THYSELF / SUFFERING | FULFILMENT / SOLITUDE

INTERPERSONAL

LOVE/FREEDOM | FORGIVENESS /INNOCENCE

TRANSCENDENT

GRACE/TRUTH | COMMUNITY /JUSTICE

IMMANENT

HUMILITY/PRAYER | WORD/MEANING

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