

ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO HONORS SYMPOSIUM

Students should read or view the following assignments or information before arrival at Honors Symposium.

Assignment 1: Read and familiarize yourself with the book of Exodus.

Assignment 2: In preparation for a discussion about our world and social impact on our thinking, watch “The Social Dilemma,” which can be found on Netflix. [This is a trailer clip that might intrigue you.](#)

Assignment 3: In preparation for courses centered around why we think the way we do, Please read [The Allegory of the Cave](#) and The Sermon on the Mount. Also pay close attention to Exodus chapters 19 and 20.

Assignment 4: In preparation for a discussion about Dante's “Inferno,” please read cantos 3, 6, 8-9. For the second discussion, please read cantos 26, 32-34. The best online (and free) resource for this literary masterpiece is “Digital Dante,” hosted by Columbia University. [This link](#) will take you to the three works that comprise the “Divine Comedy,” the first of which is the “Inferno.” Once you select a canto from the “Inferno,” there will be a header option at the top of the page for “Texts and Translations,” which you must click in order to view the different versions of the text: the original Italian, the Mandelbaum translation, and the Longfellow translation. We recommend reading the Mandelbaum, as it is a more contemporary translation and the one we will use in our classes.

5 Questions at Honors Symposium

Education is for those who crave meaning and purpose, moving against cultural trends of relativism and fundamentalism that too often dominate the national conversation in the media and online. Honors Symposium is a glimpse at what education can look like. In these two weeks, we adopt a holistic approach to education by contemplating the questions:

1. Who is God?
2. Who are we?
3. What matters?
4. What are our responsibilities?
5. How do we know what we know?

These questions encourage us to cultivate the classical virtues — prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, wisdom, diligence, courage, and moderation — from a Christian perspective, rooting them in the central concepts of faith, hope, and love. We won't leave Symposium having answered these questions fully. Instead, we will have only begun to explore the mysteries within them, forming a mosaic of answers from various disciplines, growing into asking deeper questions, thinking critically about our place in the world, and wrestling with what it means to live The Good Life.