“A PHILOSOPHY FOR SLAVES AND KINGS”:
PRINCIPLES OF ROMAN STOICISM

After the death of Jesus, but before Christianity swept through the Roman Empire, Stoicism was one of the most popular Roman systems of belief. Stoics from all walks of life, ranging from the slave Epictetus to the emperor Marcus Aurelius, held that physics, ethics, and religion formed a unified whole, and their view of the good life as being aligned with nature appeals to many thoughtful people even today. An exploration of the works of the most notable Roman Stoics will help participants both to understand what these ancient thinkers believed and to apply their beliefs to the issues we face today in the 21st century.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

David Shiner is a senior professor at Shimer College (“the Great Books College of Chicagoland”) where he has taught for the past 40 years and also served several terms as Dean of the College. Throughout his career, Mr. Shiner has helped intellectually curious individuals master classic works from all areas of liberal studies — including philosophy, literature, music, sociology and biology — and he regularly receives outstanding course evaluations that emphasize both his understanding of the texts and his ability to bring out the best in students. Mr. Shiner brings to his classes a love of ideas and a penchant for helping adults from all walks of life develop their ability to subject every text to careful critical scrutiny.
“A PHILOSOPHY FOR SLAVES AND KINGS”:
PRINCIPLES OF ROMAN STOICISM

COURSE READINGS
1) Musonius Rufus, Lectures (c 65 CE).
2) Seneca, “On the Happy Life” (c 58 CE).
3) Epictetus, Enchiridion (c 125 CE).
4) Marcus Aurelius, Meditations (c 180 CE).

ACCESS TO ALL READINGS WILL BE PROVIDED VIA THE GREAT DISCOURSES℠ COLLABORATORY ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (COLLABORATORY.GREATDISCOURSES.COM).

COURSE MATERIALS
1) Course Syllabus [This Document].
2) Course Readings.

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS CAN DOWNLOAD COURSE MATERIALS FROM THE GREAT DISCOURSES℠ COLLABORATORY ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (COLLABORATORY.GREATDISCOURSES.COM).

COURSE REGISTRATION
Register online for a section of this course in the “OUR COURSES” section of the GreatDiscourses.com website; or by email or telephone (see Contact Information on page 3).

READ, THINK, LISTEN, SPEAK℠ : THE GREAT DISCOURSES℠ STUDENT HANDBOOK
“The Great Discourses℠ Student Handbook” contains all the important general information that you will need to participate in this course. Please read it carefully, especially the sections:
- Discussion Course Overview;
- Discussion Course Methodology and Etiquette;
- Course Registration and Access;
- Course Technical Requirements;
- Before Your Course;
- During Your Course;
- After Your Course; and,
- Course Recording.

DAYS, DATES AND TIMES AROUND THE WORLD
The official day, date and time for all Great Discourses℠ events are the event day, date and time in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Chicago is in the USA / Canada Central time zone (CT) which is six hours behind Universal Coordinated Time (UTC): UTC – 0600.* East Asia / Australasia days and dates are one ahead of USA / Canada days and dates.

Please be aware that your local class time may vary during this multi-week course if the USA / Canada Central time zone and/or your local time zone transitions to or from Daylight Savings (Summer) Time during the course.

* Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), the official world standard, is equivalent to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
Time zone adjustments in effect for 2017 include:

- **USA / Canada** Daylight Savings Time (Summer Time): .......................... 12 Mar – 5 Nov
- **Mexico** Daylight Savings Time (Summer Time): ................................. 2 Apr – 29 Oct
- **Europe** Daylight Savings Time (Summer Time): ................................. 26 Mar – 29 Oct
- **Australia** Standard Time (Winter Time): ................................. 2 Apr – 1 Oct

The calendar in the Great Discourses℠ Collaboratory online learning environment automatically displays adjusted class days, dates and times for the time zone you set in your user profile.

See www.TimeAndDate.com for additional time zone information and for easy-to-use tools to calculate class days, dates and times in various time zones.

You may find it helpful to write the course section in which you are registered as well as the local dates and times of the class sessions on a printout of the “Course Schedule” below that you can keep with you as a handy reference.

**GETTING HELP AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

In addition to this syllabus and “Read, Think, Listen, Speak℠: The Great Discourses℠ Student Handbook”, Great Discourses℠ provides a range of help on various topics at its main website and at the Collaboratory online learning environment. Our web-conferencing provider, Zoom (“The Cloud Meeting Company”), also has a range of technical information available at its Support Center. Consulting these resources should help you answer common questions about various aspects of your online educational experience that are not addressed here. If you can’t find what you need, or simply prefer interacting with a real human being, please contact Student Services or the Course Instructor, as appropriate.

**Great Discourses℠ Contact Information**

Main Website:  ................................................................................ GreatDiscourses.com

Online Learning Environment: .................................................. Collaboratory.GreatDiscourses.com

Email:  .................................................................................. Student-Services@GreatDiscourses.com

Skype (Chat or Call):  .............................................................. GreatDiscourses

Telephone:  ................................................................................ + 1 (312) 239-0969

**Zoom Support Center (Online Classroom Software)**

Web:  .................................................................................. https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us

**Course Instructor Contact Information**

David Shiner  ........................................................................ David-Shiner@GreatDiscourses.com
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>SECTION, DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>CLASS ACTIVITY / READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>§__: ________ TIME</td>
<td>• Technological Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Methodological Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Musonius Rufus, Lectures *</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Course Introduction *</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Participant Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>§__: ________ TIME</td>
<td>• Seneca, “On the Happy Life”</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>§__: ________ TIME</td>
<td>• Epictetus, <em>Enchiridion</em></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>§__: ________ TIME</td>
<td>• Marcus Aurelius, <em>Meditations</em> (Books 2-4)</td>
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<td>• Review &amp; Synthesis</td>
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* There is no homework in advance of the first class session. Reading will be done in class.