

THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A TURBULENT 21ST CENTURY

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CEDARCRYPT CONFERENCE – AUB-M

JULY 2026



PERSONAL NOTE

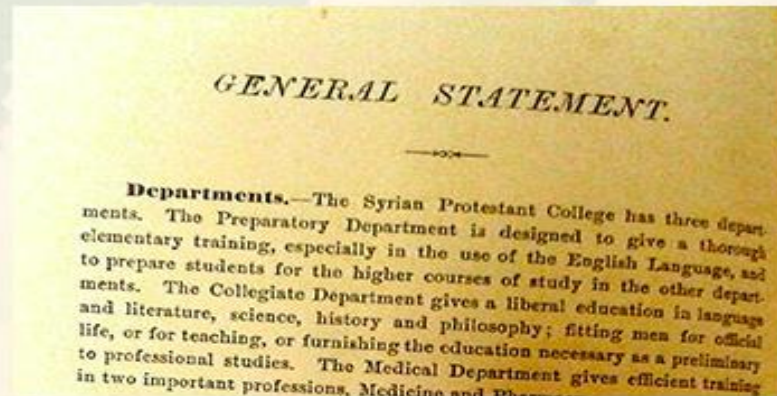
- Took on the role of Director of General Education in November 2020
- Harsh time in Lebanon: failed uprising, pandemic, economic crisis, Beirut Port Explosion (only got more challenging with time)
- As a philosopher, started by asking the fundamentals:
- What is the purpose of a university education (or a liberal arts education)
- Looked into the history and its development at AUB
- Talked to everyone on campus (faculty in small meetings, staff, student groups)



Plato's Allegory of the Cave



1897: ESTABLISHING GENERAL EDUCATION AT AUB



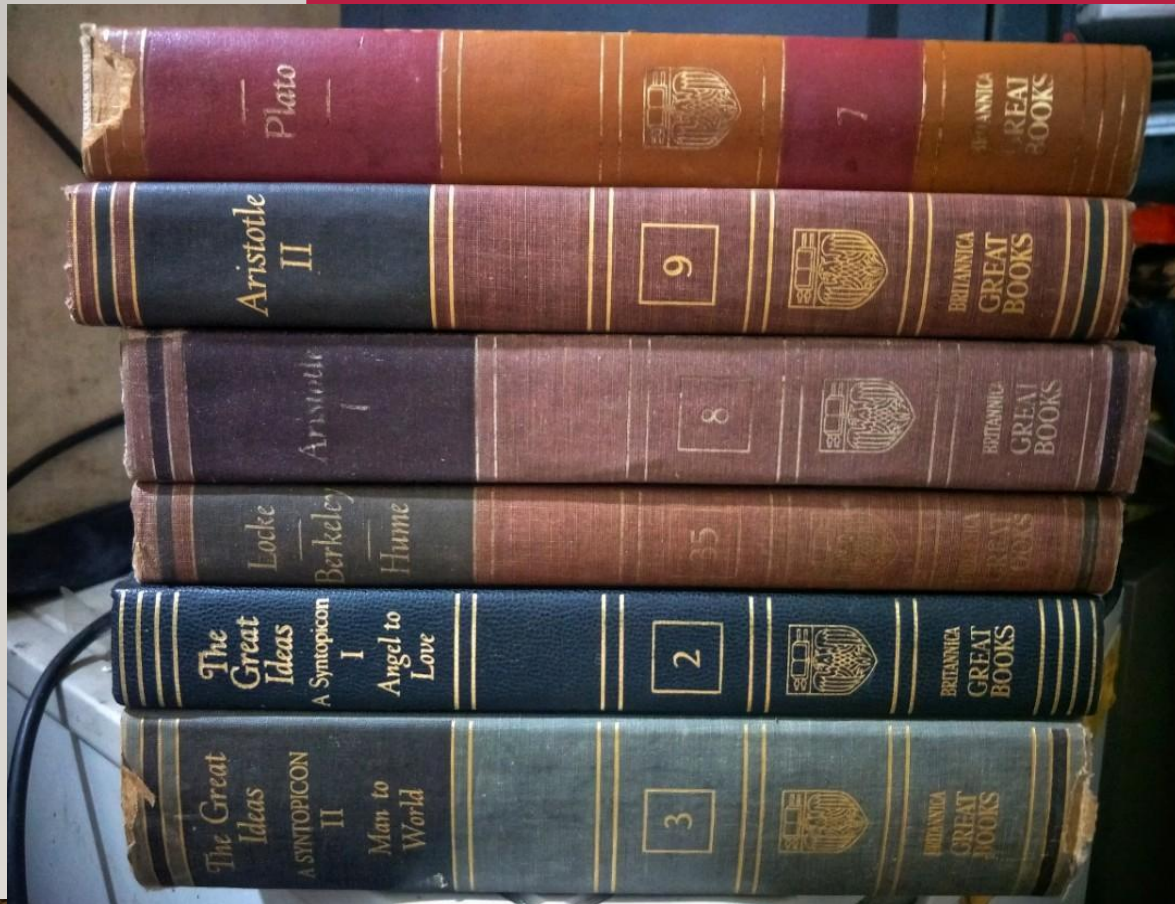
1897

SPC's General Statement From 1897-98.

SPC provides a
liberal education

SPC's General Statement of 1897-98 articulates for the first time that the Collegiate Department gives a liberal education. Liberal, in the dialect of the time, meant a wider range of electives would be offered students.

1897-2005: HISTORY OF IDEAS AND COMMON INTELLECTUAL EXPERIENCES



Ref:- 31.

GENERAL EDUCATION 201-202

FILM SERIES

On January 13, 1955 a series of films related to General Education will begin at West Hall Auditorium. The purpose of the series is to make use of the free film libraries available in Beirut and to give the students of General Education new and different insights into the subject matter covered by the course. Your attendance, although not required will add much to your knowledge and to your enjoyment. It will help you to understand material that may be difficult to comprehend as well as deepen your understanding of all the material.

Of course the films to be shown are not ideal. There are many French films in which the narration will not be understood by most students. In these use your eyes more intensively to compensate

2005 REVAMPED GE: EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES AIMED AT SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The 7 Original Liberal Arts

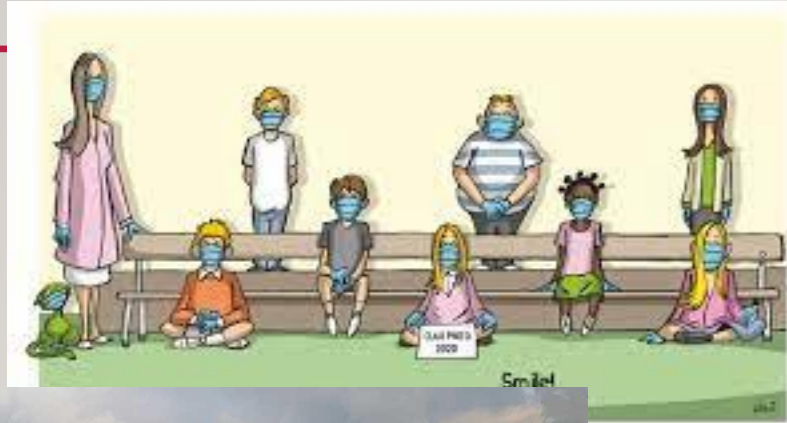
1. Grammar
2. Logic
3. Rhetoric
4. Arithmetic
5. Geometry
6. Music
7. Astronomy



CURRENT GE REQUIREMENTS

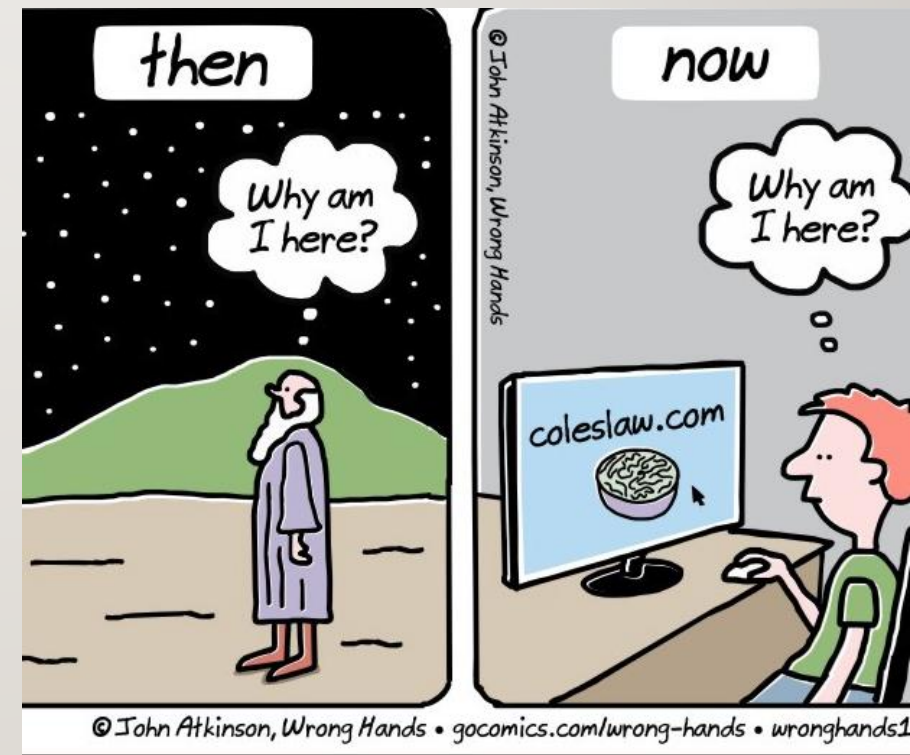
Area	Cr.
Arabic Communications Skills	3
English Communication Skills	3-6
Humanities I	6
Humanities II	6
Social Sciences I	3
Social Sciences II	3
Quantitative Thought	3
Natural Sciences	6
Total Credits	33-36

RETHINKING HIGHER EDUCATION: WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?



NEW GE MISSION STATEMENT

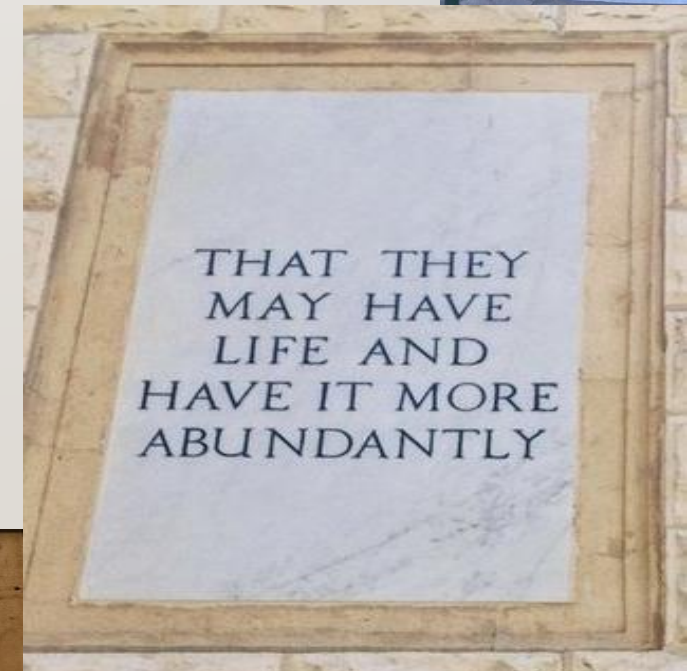
The mission of the General Education program is to help us understand ourselves, the world and our role in it. The program will allow students learn to think critically and analyze intellectual and social issues in their historical and contemporary frameworks from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. It does so while also enhancing problem-solving skills and abilities for life-long learning. Students will recognize and reflect on their values, their civic responsibilities and their general roles in society.



New Requirements

1. Human Values
2. Community Engaged Learning
3. History of Ideas (new courses)
4. Social Inequalities

LAUNCHED IN 2022-2023



COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION

Centralized Course: Online content developed by faculty across campus in collaboration with Center for Community Engagement

Developed Courses within Disciplines: e.g. Education and Media Studies

Partnerships and Rotations

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Ministry of Social Care

Numerous NGO's





THANKS