

The staff of the Jerusalem and Athens Forum (JAF) is pleased by the feedback we have received since the program's inception in 2004. The program has received national recognition from the Lilly Endowment and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute as a premiere Christian liberal arts honors program. But we are especially gratified by the responses from Gordon's own students and faculty. Below are some samples:

A. Comments from Past Student Participants in JAF Program

JAF has been one of the more rewarding experiences of my time at Gordon so far... I would recommend it to other intellectually serious students at Gordon College.

- 2010-11 Cohort

It is not an exaggeration to say that JAF has been one of the most transformative educational experiences of my life. JAF has forced me to grow far beyond my expectations.

- 2010-11 Cohort

In JAF I found the quality of work and the type of thinking that I had been longing for since coming to college.

- 2010-11 Cohort

[JAF] truly educates, rather than indoctrinates, the students.

- 2010-11 Cohort

[JAF] has shown me how important it is to be a thoughtful Christian and a willing converser in the postmodern age. I never realized before what a magnificent history of Christian intellectual thought we have. I am inspired to become part of it.

- 2010-11 Cohort

JAF has been the most influential educational experience at Gordon for me so far. It changed my perspective on numerous contemporary and historical issues and made me redefine/rethink many of my beliefs.

-2008-09 Cohort

JAF represents the epitome of a liberal arts education and has been the highlight of my college classes.

-2008-09 Cohort

This course has been a wonderful blend of topics, genres, and schools of thought.

-2008-09 Cohort

This was a life-changing program.

-2005-06 Cohort

This has been the most memorable and educational course I've taken at Gordon, and in itself worth a Gordon tuition bill.

-2005-06 Cohort

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the Forum, I feel strongly that this is the best course offering at Gordon College. Recently I commented to a friend "Everything I studied this year influenced JAF and JAF influenced everything I studied this year."
-2005-06 Cohort

The JAF has been by far one of the best experiences I have had in my academic life. It has allowed me to explore and struggle with the great thinkers of the Christian past.
-2005-06 Cohort

The JAF program was an extremely valuable experience for me this year. . . . It was certainly the best discussion course I have taken at the College thus far.
-2005-06 Cohort

Compared to other college programs, I thought this was the most influential and well-organized program I have been a part of.
-2005-06 Cohort

The material covered in this program was superior to that of most other courses I have taken. JAF's most notable feature is the foundational use of the classics as the core educational resource in conjunction with currently unfolding scholarship.
-2005-06 Cohort

This course has been the single most important occurrence in my intellectual development thus far.
-2004-05 Cohort

I can't even begin [to state] . . . what an impact JAF has had on my thinking.
-2004-05 Cohort

JAF has been tremendously valuable as a horizon-broadening forum for higher learning and education. . . . I have learned more about Christian scholarship in the past year than I have in the past five.
-2004-05 Cohort

I have found the Jerusalem and Athens Forum to be a tremendously beneficial experience. I can't imagine my college experience without it. . . . This is a truly amazing program.
-2004-2005 Cohort

I . . . have been deeply affected by the [JAF] experience. The conversations are certainly more engaging and sustained and have led me to deeper thought and reading than is usual within a classroom setting...I think [the JAF] is raising a standard that motivated students now seek to live up to.
-2004-2005 Cohort

This program has been the most intellectually challenging course that I have had at Gordon.
-2004-05 Cohort

The teaching . . . was excellent. . . . The program's extensive coverage via the readings and outside class lectures make for an amazing educational experience.
-2004-05 Cohort

I . . . am amazed at the depth and breadth of the material we covered. . . . In terms of my other educational experiences, JAF has bolstered them by touching on issues that are relevant to almost every major and can be tied in with almost every class I've taken. I feel better prepared for classes in general and more interested in a wider range of topics.
-2004-05 Cohort

B. Comments from Gordon College Faculty and Administration

The Jerusalem and Athens Forum energizes the life of the entire Gordon community.
-Marv Wilson, Harold John Ockenga Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies

The Jerusalem and Athens Forum seems to draw the best out of the best [while] exposing potential in the rest.
-Jan Carlberg, First Lady of Gordon College (retired June, 2011)

I am constantly impressed by the intellectual rigor of this program, done from the perspective of shaping the mind of the Christian for service to the Church and the world. I have found the students in the program to be thoroughly engaged in the questions and problems of the day, but all for the sake of shaping a clear and compelling Christian perspective.
-Roger Green, Terrelle B. Crum Chair of Humanities, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies

The Jerusalem and Athens Forum at Gordon College is a model seminar in undergraduate education. The level of discourse engendered in this group is consistently high, and a rare combination of intellectual gravitas and heartfelt caritas is cultivated by staff and faculty as well as students in the program. Our larger campus community has been deeply enriched by the JAF.
-Bruce Herman, Lothlórien Distinguished Chair in the Fine Arts

When I first came to Gordon as a faculty member directly from graduate school at Princeton, there was one thing I missed. At Princeton many visiting scholars regularly came to give lectures and present their work for discussion. At Gordon . . . I missed the opportunity to hear from scholars in broader academia, particularly senior scholars from other institutions. Since the inception of the Jerusalem Athens Forum this aspect of the co-curricular education at Gordon has been transformed. . . . That Ivy League nexus of intellectual exchange is flourishing right here at our Christian liberal arts college!
-Jennifer Hevelone-Harper, Chair of the History Department