



CATHERINE PROJECT

First and second quarter report, August 2022

Dear readers and friends,

When we last wrote to you, we noted the beautiful growth the Catherine Project had experienced from the spring of 2021 to the spring of 2022. To recap, in our Spring 2022 session, we offered:

- ⊗ 8 tutorials
- ⊗ 2 subject tutorials in ancient Greek
- ⊗ 19 reading groups
- ⊗ 1 one-off Spring Seminar on Plato's *Apology*

In total, 346 readers were able to study with us this spring.

Since previously sharing those numbers, we conducted our largest summer session yet, which included the first ever in-person Catherine Project reading groups! All told, this summer we offered:

- ⊗ 1 tutorial
- ⊗ 4 subject tutorials in ancient Greek
- ⊗ 19 reading groups

Approximately 300 readers studied with us over the summer, *which means the total number of readers we've been able to accommodate in 2022 is approximately 500!* (To

add some perspective, the total number of readers we accommodated in all of 2021 was 270).

We are therefore delighted to announce that our Fall 2022 session is set to continue the careful expansion just outlined. As enrollment for the fall opens, we are proud to be offering:

- ⊕ 13 tutorials, one of which will be in-person
- ⊕ 3 subject tutorials in ancient Greek and Latin
- ⊕ And 23 reading groups

From the poems of Homer to an anthology of contemporary short stories, our fall catalog is our most eclectic set of offerings yet. After the success of our reading group on Renaissance painting, we are thrilled to offer two reading groups that include movies as ‘readings’, as well as a single-session reading group on Erwin Panofsky’s profound essay “The History of Art as a Humanistic Discipline.” Whether you have studied with us in the past or not, we warmly invite you to join us this fall by applying at: catherineproject.org/offerings. As always, we welcome readers from all walks of life: your educational background or ability to pay will never disqualify you from participating in our community of learning.

The Catherine Project was founded on the belief that anyone who can read is capable of cultivating a rich life of the mind. Of course, finding the time and energy for that cultivation isn’t easy, which is why we promote communal learning: sharing the wonderful labor of learning makes us more likely to continue in the practice. In light of this, we acknowledge with overwhelming gratitude the varied contributions of our community. From the tutors and reading group leaders who generously volunteer their time and profound care in conversation, to the readers in our courses who share their love of—and commitment to—learning: you *are* the Catherine Project.

As we look forward to a winter and spring of earnest, joyful reading and conversation, we turn to our community and friends for help in the following areas:

- ⊕ The radical openness of the Catherine Project comes at a cost: we depend on freewill donations to operate. We need your support to keep liberal learning alive and available! **Please consider donating at: catherineproject.org/donate.** No

amount is too small, and we greatly appreciate recurring donations of any amount. (If you'd like to send us a donation by mail, our address is 2631 Housley Road, Box 1006, Annapolis, MD 21401).

- ⊗ We are immensely excited to publish the inaugural issue of the Catherine Project newsletter this spring! **The newsletter's editorial board is seeking writing inspired by the conversations and study we engage in at the Catherine Project.** If you have a tutorial essay you're proud of, or an idea for a piece written in our spirit, please write to: newsletter@catherineproject.org.

- ⊗ With due thoughtfulness and care, we want to continue growing our tutorial offerings. **If you or someone you know has experience working on an in-depth intellectual project (for example, a dissertation) and wants to help cultivate the habits of learning we promote, write to us at: volunteer@catherineproject.org.** (Potential tutors who are unfamiliar with the Project are strongly encouraged to participate in one of our reading groups to get a sense of our spirit).

This season, Catherine Project leadership will be reflecting on the possibility of offering more in-person courses. In particular, we will continue our exploration of an in-person summer conference as an opportunity for the Catherine Project community to congregate in the non-digital world. Keep an eye out this winter for the launch of the Catherine Project newsletter and our Fall Seminar: a one-off discussion, open to all, on a text to be determined.

If you have questions or reflections on the direction or activities—past, present, or future—of the Catherine Project, we invite you to write: we love corresponding with those who are interested in the work we are doing.

In gratitude and joyful celebration for all the members of our community of learning,

Jordan Poyner
For all at the Catherine Project

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