



October

2025

HOW TO BE DISGUSTINGLY EDUCATED GUIDE

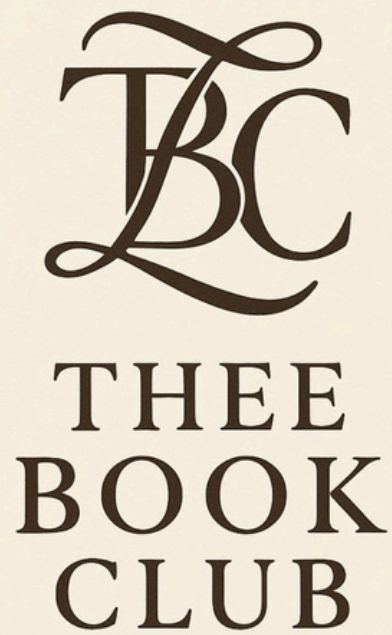
A SYLLABUS FOR BRILLIANCE

P R E F A C E

This guide began as a love letter to curiosity, the kind that makes you chase questions down rabbit holes and linger over books until midnight. It is also a gift to the community that has grown around Thee Book Club, a reminder that brilliance can be romantic, stylish, and deeply human. Thank you to every reader, subscriber, and dreamer who has built this space with me. May these pages remind you that the pursuit of knowledge is one of the most beautiful ways to live.

T H E E B O O K C L U B

MEET THE AUTHOR



Thee Book Club is a literary lifestyle community dedicated to reviving the art of thoughtful reading and lifelong learning. Through essays, digital guides, and in-person events, Thee Book Club has grown into a global space where curiosity meets conversation. It's work explores literature, philosophy, and modern intellect with a romantic touch, turning education into something beautiful, intentional, and deeply human.

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Introduction

There's something almost scandalous about knowing too much.

Your presence hints at secret libraries you've wandered through, conversations you've overheard across decades, ideas you've wrestled with at midnight.

Being “disgustingly educated” isn't about degrees, résumés, or how many books you've stacked on your nightstand. It's about a hunger for knowledge that borders on obsession. It's about daring to be the person in the room who references Toni Morrison and Albert Einstein in the same breath, leaving everyone else wondering where on earth you came from.

This guide isn't for people who want to impress at dinner parties (though you will). It's for the ones who are restless, who want their curiosity to be bottomless, who believe education is not a phase but a lifelong love affair.

Over the next pages, you'll find mindsets, reading lists, hobbies, and subtle ways to carry yourself that transform you into the kind of person people call disgustingly educated, with awe, envy, or both.

So, light a candle, pour yourself a cup of tea (indulge in a cheat treat, I won't judge), and step into this syllabus of brilliance.

“Education is not a degree, it's a love affair with knowledge.”





*"Curiosity is the most powerful
form of rebellion."*

1

CHAPTER

THE MINDSET

1. The Lost Art of Curiosity

*"Nothing is irrelevant.
Everything leads somewhere
if you're curious enough."*

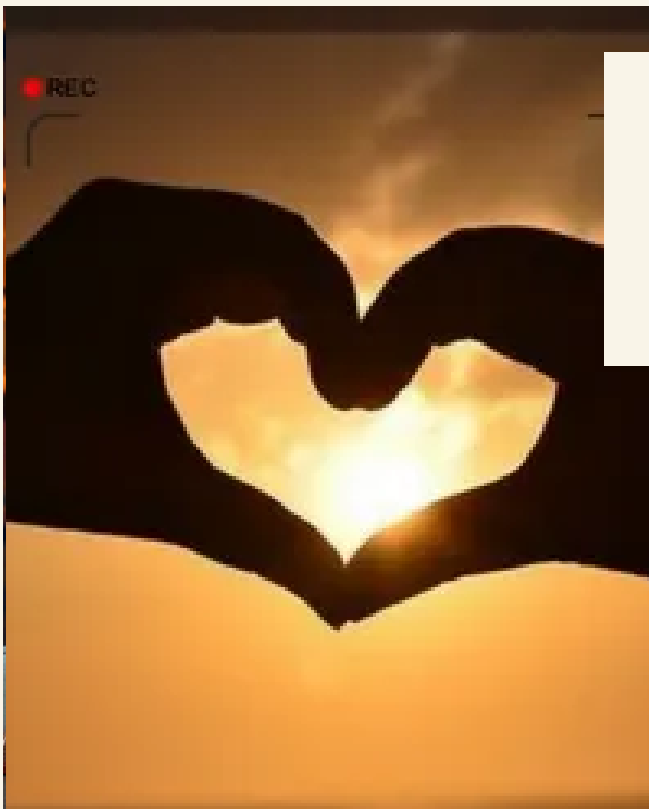
Most people stop asking questions once they leave school. That's the tragedy. To be disgustingly educated, you must refuse to let your curiosity go dull. Ask questions that make people roll their eyes. Chase footnotes, follow rabbit holes, and care about things that seem "irrelevant." The secret is this: nothing is irrelevant.



2. Romanticize Intelligence

*"Knowledge is beautiful.
Carry it like perfume."*

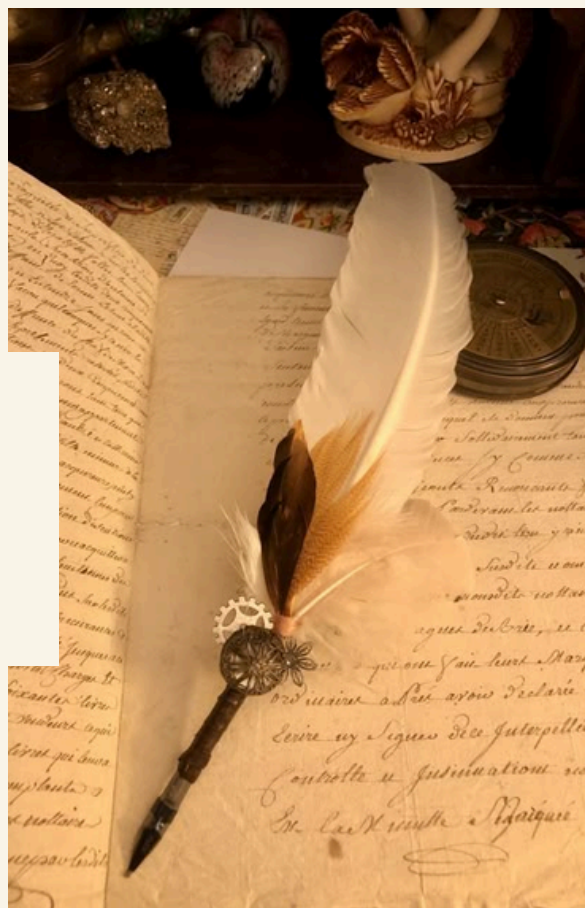
Knowledge is not sterile; it's sensual. Romanticize it. Carry a book to a café like it's a love letter. Highlight lines that break your heart. Let people see you linger over words. Being educated isn't just about information, it's about cultivating an aura that says: I live beautifully, and my mind is part of that beauty.



3. Delusional Confidence

“Speak as if you belong in every room, then learn until you do.”

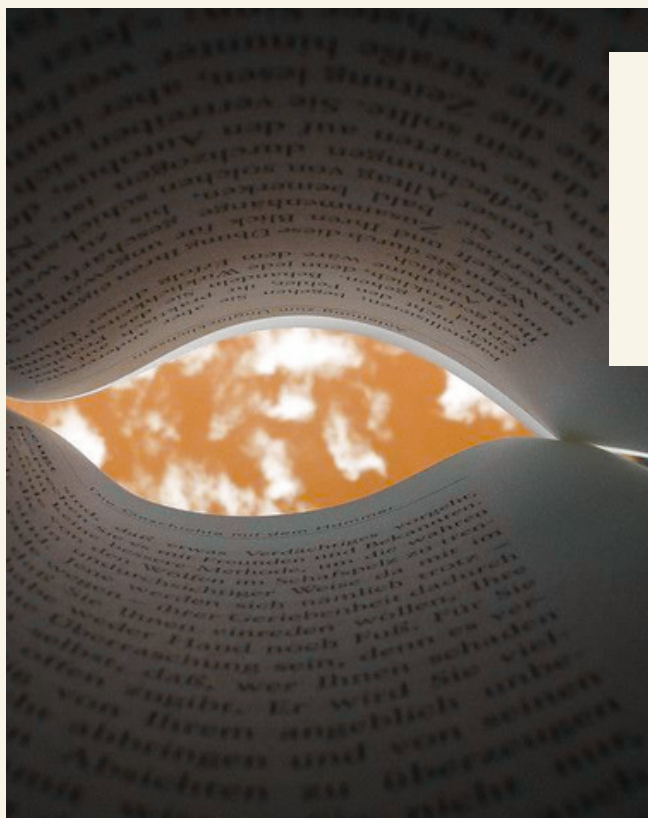
The trick is to act like you belong in every room, every library, every conversation, even when you don't. Confidence makes your education magnetic. You don't need to know everything. But when you speak with conviction, people will listen as though you do. And in the meantime? You'll be learning twice as fast.



4. Know That You Know Nothing

“Wisdom begins when certainty ends.”

The more you learn, the more you realize how vast the unknown truly is. Socrates was right: wisdom begins with acknowledging ignorance. Being disgustingly educated is not about hoarding knowledge, but about staying humble enough to keep learning. Pretend you are always a beginner. The arrogance of thinking you've “arrived” is the fastest way to become intellectually irrelevant.





*"To know the classics is to sit at
the table with the dead and listen
as they speak."*

CHAPTER

2

THE CORE CANON



“

Because language
can be both knife
and silk.

Toni Morrison



“

Because the world
must not be seen
only through
Western eyes

Chinua Achebe



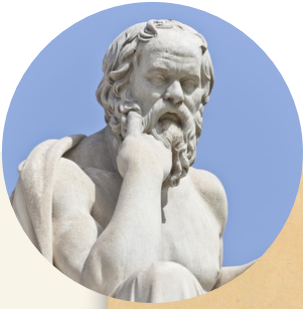
“

Because human
souls are endless
novels in
themselves

Leo Tolstoy

Literature

You cannot be disgustingly educated without literature. Fiction teaches you empathy, history, and beauty, all at once.



“

Foundations of
Western thought.

Plato



“

The psychology of
colonization.

Frantz Fanon



“

Gender as a lens of
power.

Simone de Beauvoir

Philosophy & History

Philosophy gives you the questions.
History tells you how we've answered
them (or failed to).

- **World Histories (not just Europe):**
dive into African empires, Asian
dynasties, Indigenous voices.



“

To learn how life
unfolds.

Charles Darwin



“

To understand our
place in the cosmos.

Stephen Hawking



“

Because history
forgets women
who discovered
worlds.

Mary Anning

Science & Curiosity of the Universe

Science is not just formulas. It is
wonder.



“

Opposites, but
necessary.

**Karl Marx &
Adam Smith**



Economics & Politics

To understand society, you must
understand power and money.

- **Contemporary African thinkers:**
Because the future is not written
only in the West.



“

Economics with
humanity.

Amartya Sen



"To be disgustingly educated is to have one foot in the past and one firmly in the present."

CHAPTER

3

THE MODERN ADDITIONS

Economics & Politics

DIGITAL INTELLECTUALS

CONTEMPORARY THINKERS



T The canon is the foundation, but education rots if it doesn't evolve.



Modern
storytelling that
bridges politics
and literature.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Big-picture
thinker on history
and the future.

Yuval Noah Harari



Fierce, tender
lessons on love,
power, and
identity.

Bell hooks

NEWS & MEDIA LITERACY



Being disgustingly educated doesn't mean knowing every headline. It means knowing how to read them.

Learn to ask:

1. Who is telling this story?
2. Whose voice is missing?
3. What's the agenda?

Not all wisdom is bound in leather. Podcasts, YouTube lectures, Substack writers, they're the philosophers of our age.



Listen to podcasts
that make you
uncomfortable.



Follow digital creators who challenge your worldview, not just confirm it.



*Some of the smartest things you'll
ever learn won't come from a
classroom*

CHAPTER

4

THE SECRET SYLLABUS

The Secret Syllabus

"Hobbies are where intellect gets playful."



JOURNALING



The simplest but most powerful habit. Journals aren't diaries; they're laboratories for the mind. Write reflections, notes on what you read, random thoughts. Over time, your journal becomes a personal archive of brilliance.

DEBATING



Learn to spar with words. Join discussions, challenge ideas, sharpen your tongue. The trick? Listen as much as you argue. The most educated people can disagree without disrespect.

THE ODD HOBBIES



Chess, calligraphy, gardening, astronomy, pottery. Pick one. People will think it's random, but the truth is hobbies are where intellect gets playful.

ART AS EDUCATION



Don't underestimate creativity. Photography, sketching, or even just learning to appreciate art makes you sharper in ways equations never will. A disgustingly educated person is fluent in both logic and beauty.

LEARNING A LANGUAGE



Even if you never become fluent, trying reshapes your brain. It teaches humility, patience, and new ways of seeing the world.



"Education is not just what you know, but how you move through the world."

5

CHAPTER

LIVING THE PART

LIVING THE PART

Language & Poise

Words are your calling card. Don't just know things, know how to say them. Read poetry out loud. Practice clarity and rhythm in your speech. A disgustingly educated person doesn't need to shout; their words carry weight because they've been chosen with care.

Conversation as an Art

Anyone can talk. Few can converse. The trick is balance: drop references like breadcrumbs, not confetti. Ask questions as much as you answer them. People should walk away feeling they've met not just a mind, but a presence.

Cultural Fluency

Know a little about many things. Art, politics, cinema, philosophy, fashion, even pop culture. The goal isn't to be an encyclopedia, it's to connect across worlds. Education without cultural fluency is sterile.

Personal Syllabus

Every disgustingly educated person curates their own syllabus. It's not just about school curriculums, it's about what you decide is worth studying this year, this month, this week. Keep a living list: books, documentaries, skills. Your syllabus is your fingerprint.



*“Education is a garden, here are
seeds to plant.”*

CHAPTER

6

EXTRAS & RESOURCES

Starter Reading List

(for beginners to dip into brilliance)

01. BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME

Ta-Nehisi Coates (a modern meditation on race, identity, and belonging).



02. THINGS FALL APART

Chinua Achebe (essential African literature).

03. SAPIENS

Yuval Noah Harari (a sweeping story of humanity).



04. BELOVED

Toni Morrison (the haunting power of memory and history).

05. MEDITATIONS

Marcus Aurelius (stoic wisdom for daily life).



06. THE FIRE NEXT TIME

James Baldwin (fierce, lyrical essays on race and faith).

07. THE PROPHET

Kahlil Gibran (poetry of wisdom and spirit).



Advanced Reading List

(when you're ready to sweat a little)

01. THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH

Frantz Fanon (colonial psychology and liberation).



02. THE SECOND SEX

Simone de Beauvoir (groundbreaking feminist philosophy).

03. WAR AND PEACE

Leo Tolstoy (the human condition in epic form).



04. A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME

Stephen Hawking (the universe, explained with grace).

05. DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM

Amartya Sen (economics as human possibility).

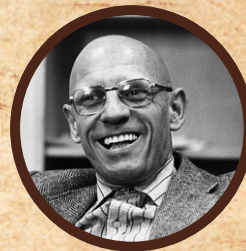


06. ORIENTALISM

Edward Said (how the West shaped narratives of the East).

07. DISCIPLINE AND PUNISH

Michel Foucault (power, prisons, and surveillance).



08. INVISIBLE MAN

Ralph Ellison (identity and invisibility in America).

Articles & Essays

(bite-sized brilliance)

01. CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

The Danger of a Single Story (essay + TED talk).



02. JAMES BALDWIN

Notes of a Native Son (must-read essays).

03. GEORGE ORWELL

Politics and the English Language (the timeless art of clarity).



04. AUDRE LORDE

The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House.

05. VIRGINIA WOOLF

A Room of One's Own.



06. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Letter from Birmingham Jail.

07. ARUNDHATI ROY

The End of Imagination.



Podcasts & Audio Learning

(learn while you move)

01. PHILOSOPHIZE THIS!

philosophy from Socrates to Foucault, explained accessibly.



02. THROUGHLINE (NPR)

history behind today's headlines.

03. THE EZRA KLEIN SHOW

thoughtful conversations with thinkers of our time.



04. THE DAILY (NYT)

sharp analysis of current issues.

05. ON BEING WITH KRISTA TIPPETT

spirituality, philosophy, culture.



06. REVOLUTIONS (MIKE DUNCAN)

world history in gripping podcast form.

07. HISTORY EXTRA

the stories and debates that shaped history.



08. REVISIONIST HISTORY (MALCOLM GLADWELL)

challenging what we think we know.

Films & Documentaries

(because education isn't only on the page)

01. 13TH (AVA DUVERNAY)

the prison-industrial complex in America.



02. THE SOCIAL DILEMMA

tech, data, and manipulation.

03. COSMOS (CARL SAGAN / NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON)

the universe explained visually.



04. INSIDE BILL'S BRAIN

leadership, problem-solving, philanthropy.

05. MY OCTOPUS TEACHER

on curiosity and nature's intelligence.



06. EXTERMINATE ALL THE BRUTES

colonization and power, visually told.

KNOWLEDGE TRACKER

DATE _____

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STUDY HOURS

EXPECTED	HOUR		MINUTES	
ACTUAL	HOUR		MINUTES	

WHAT I CONSUMED: (BOOK / PODCAST / FILM / ARTICLE)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. A large, faint, light gray watermark of the Chinese character '世' (Shì) is visible in the lower right portion of the page. The character is stylized and serves as a background element.

ONE QUESTION I STILL HAVE

[illegible]

MAIN TAKEAWAY

[illegible]

HOW THIS CONNECTS TO OTHER THINGS I KNOW

NOTES & DOODLES

A line drawing illustration of a person with long hair, wearing a simple top and pants, sitting cross-legged on the floor. They are holding an open book in their lap and looking down at it. To their left is a cup of coffee on a saucer. To their right is a bouquet of flowers. The background is a solid light blue color.

KNOWLEDGE TRACKER

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[illegible]

ONE QUESTION I STILL HAVE

MAIN TAKEAWAY

[illegible]

HOW THIS CONNECTS TO OTHER THINGS I KNOW

[illegible]

NOTES & DOODLES

A stack of four books with a small plant growing from the top. The plant has three leaves and a small flower. The books are of different thicknesses and have simple covers. The entire illustration is in a dark green line-art style.

KNOWLEDGE TRACKER

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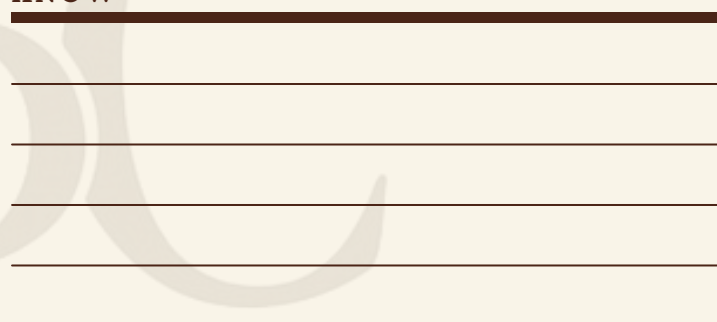
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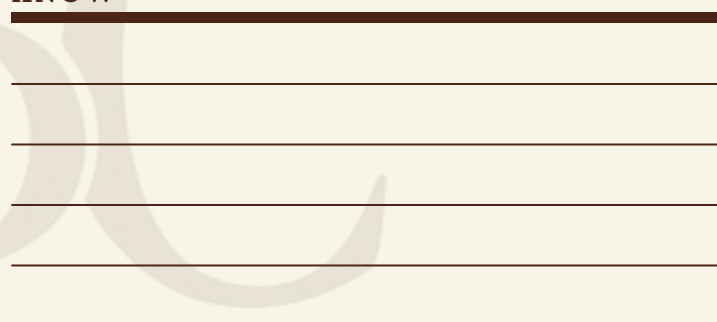
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ONE QUESTION I STILL HAVE

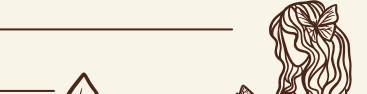
MAIN TAKEAWAY

[illegible]

HOW THIS CONNECTS TO OTHER THINGS I KNOW



NOTES & DOODLES

A line drawing of a young girl with long, wavy hair, wearing a dress with a bow in her hair and a bow at the waist. She is sitting and reading a book. To her left are various plants, including a tall leafy plant and some flowers. The entire illustration is in a simple, clean line-art style.

KNOWLEDGE TRACKER

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STUDY HOURS

EXPECTED	HOUR		MINUTES	
ACTUAL	HOUR		MINUTES	

WHAT I CONSUMED: (BOOK / PODCAST / FILM / ARTICLE)

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ONE QUESTION I STILL HAVE

[illegible]

MAIN TAKEAWAY

[illegible]

HOW THIS CONNECTS TO OTHER THINGS I KNOW

NOTES & DOODLES

[illegible]

Journal

Prompts

- *What idea has most changed the way I live?*
 - *Which author, living or dead, would I most want to argue with?*
 - *What part of history do I know embarrassingly little about?*
 - *What question keeps resurfacing in my life?*
 - *What topic feels intimidating but I secretly want to master?*
-

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theeclub45@gmail.com



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