



The Bedside Baccalaureate: A Handy Daily Cerebral Primer to Fill in the Gaps, Refresh Your Knowledge Impress Yourself Other Intellectuals

David Rubel (Editor)

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Many adults long to make up for an education they either never had or that seemed somehow lacking. Now they can fill in the gaps right at home with *The Bedside Baccalaureate* series, which speaks directly to this grown-up thirst for knowledge. Filled with color images, extremely readable, and with an appealing presentation, it provides a fun, no-pressure experience that everyone will enjoy.

The goal of *The Bedside Baccalaureate* is not the simple accumulation of trivia, but the placement of facts within the framework of knowledge. The 20 courses—focused overviews of subjects with which any well-educated person would want to be familiar—are created by experts in their fields with the intention of making the topics accessible and entertaining. Each course consists of 18 one-page lectures that maximize clarity without compromising the integrity of the ideas. The lectures are rotated, rather than clumped together, to add variety to the reading experience and to mimic the heady mix of subjects one encounters in the world of the intellect. You can dip into an assortment of areas by reading a page at a time; or, if a course really grabs you, you can skip ahead. Learning is contagious—once you get started, it's difficult to stop.

The courses are associated with one of 12 departmental “strands” as follows:

Two courses each per volume

- American History
- Philosophy
- World History
- Economics
- English and Comparative Literature
- Classics
- Art History
- Environmental Science
- Mathematics and Engineering
- Physical Sciences
- Social Science

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From Reader Review The Bedside Baccalaureate: A Handy Daily Cerebral Primer to Fill in the Gaps, Refresh Your Knowledge Impress Yourself Other Intellectuals for online ebook

Sue says

Lots and lots and lots and lots of facts!

JQ says

There are better books out there on the subjects covered. Some of the writers were good some were so bad I ended up skipping a bit.

Karen Victoria says

20 Subjects, 18 Lectures on each subject...

I am enjoying this book! It is educational as long as you keep in Mind that each lecture has a unique perspective on the subject matter. This is not an encyclopedia. It is a healthy sampling of opinions on each subject matter. I love the format as I have always known opinions are just That! Opinions.

As my motto says... "It's always a matter of opinion".

Luisa says

Darnell really liked this 2 volume series. He does not really enjoy reading so I count this as a success!

Jerry Smith says

This is a most interesting approach for a book and not quite what I was expecting to be honest. The book is divided into 5 "courses" and each one covers 5 different topics from astronomy to art history and each of those has around a dozen one page "lessons". However the content is laid out as a one pager on subject 1, then 2,3,4 and 5 before going back to 1-5 again. This is repeated until the end of the chapter, then the next chapter is similarly structured but with different topics.

There is no doubt that much of this material is interesting, and one pagers are a good way to take it in but it does have the downside of peaking interest then leaving the subject. Of course, you can read all the lessons on one subject and then go back to the next but this requires a lot of page turning and was still disjointed in my experience.

So, I am not sure this is a great way to approach this, however novel, although it made an interesting read. I actually think that this is somewhat detrimental to retaining the material though, at least it was in my case. There is a lot of material here too and the lessons are well written, leaning slightly more towards academic

language than to popular writing. Not sure I would read a similar book (and the intro talks about other volumes coming) but I am glad I tried it.

Mark Witzke says

Nice review of a variety of different topics, some more interesting and well written than others.

Robert Kiehn says

A good book for learning about the History of the world and facts about certain things such as rocket science, The Holocaust, Einstein, The Civil Rights Movement, etc.

I give it 4/5 stars.

Lucy says

20 courses in 18 one-page entries, arranged into 4 syllabi rotating history, science, art, philosophy, etc. Some quite interesting, some deadly dull or beyond my interest or ability to absorb. Arts, literature & history were interesting. Philosophy and some sciences difficult.

Syllabus 1: for American history, General Grant's Civil War; for economics, globalization; for art history, the Hudson River School; for physical sciences, the astronomical universe; for classics, myths of ancient Greece. Syllabus 2: for literature, Emerson and Transcendentalism; for physical science, the history of the Earth; for world history, Revolutionary France; for math and engineering, the search for alternative energies; for religion, schools of Buddhist thought.

Syllabus 3: for math & engineering, rocket science; for social sciences the worldview of Karl Marx; for art history, the Impressionists; for social sciences, human origins; for world history, the Holocaust in Europe.

Syllabus 4: for American history, the Civil Rights movement; for philosophy, Empiricism; for physical sciences, Einstein and relativity; for religion, the sects of Islam; for literature, masterworks of Imperial Russia.

I did okay through Syllabus 3, but I bogged down in Syllabus 4 with Empiricism, relativity and the sects of Islam. I had a hard time remembering what I just read, much less keeping the continuity going from lesson to lesson.

Alaska says

I enjoyed this book. It took almost a year to finish it but it was worth it. I learned a lot and also refreshed my memory of past events. On to Semester two!

Bob Cantrell says

Nice way to find out about a variety of subjects and to refresh your knowledge.
