A Community of Learning. The Core Curriculum in BU’s College of Arts & Sciences is made up of faculty and students who place a high value on liberal education and upon the active exchange of ideas.

Through small, interdisciplinary courses and related co-curricular activities our students and faculty engage in a shared conversation about the classic texts and fundamental ideas that have shaped our world.

Core welcomes students from all majors and is built around the idea that each student and faculty member brings his or her own perspective and experience to bear on the questions raised. As a result, students from all majors, and especially those who have not yet decided on an area of concentration, develop the larger perspective necessary for creative and innovative thought.

An essential element of the Core program is that students and faculty share a common body of classic texts, fundamental questions and critical ideas. This shared experience enables the conversation to extend beyond individual classes and link the entire curriculum as well as the students, staff and alumni of Core. >>

For more information visit www.bu.edu/core/learnmore
The Core Faculty.
The opportunity to teach in the Core attracts some of the most distinguished scholars on the BU faculty. These include department chairs, winners of our highest teaching awards, and experts renowned in their field.

They come from a wide range of academic disciplines but share a love of teaching and an interdisciplinary approach to learning. And given the special emphasis in Core on faculty-led seminars, these are teachers that students will have immediate access to from day one.

To learn more about Core faculty, and to see who will be teaching first year Core this fall, visit our webpage at www.bu.edu/core/people.

Core with Honors.
The Work for Honors program allows interested and qualified students to achieve additional command of the material and techniques addressed in Core by conducting in-depth research in an area that interests them. In addition to course completion and grade point average requirements, the Honors program involves the composition and defense of a substantial paper or project that relates material in a course outside of Core to the Core program, or which bridges subject matter from at least two particular Core Courses. Students who successfully complete these requirements will earn the following notation on their transcripts: “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences, with Honors.”

The Core Classes.
In Core classes, we engage with classic works as we develop critical skills in thinking, discussion and writing. In addition to discussion seminar, Core students meet in weekly plenary sessions to hear expert faculty from BU and other world-class institutions highlight significant aspects of the works and ideas we are discussing in seminar.

Why are Core courses designed to be interdisciplinary? Because students who have explored important ideas from multiple angles, and using the methods of multiple disciplines, are uniquely able to approach the complex questions that define the human condition. Questions considered in Core include:

- What defines life?
- Is the individual fundamentally in conflict or in harmony with society?
- What is the relationship between science and religion?
- What is the human relation to, and responsibility for, nature?

What makes Core different?

- Small classes averaging fifteen students per discussion seminar
- An integrated curriculum, led by award-winning faculty drawn from departments across the University
- A focus on classic texts, ideas and discoveries of enduring importance
- Optional Core specialty housing
- Scholarships for summer study abroad in Athens, Greece
- Student-led cultural initiatives, including an annual literary journal, theater productions, and an arts & sciences social club

“In That Book Which Is My Memory...” - Dante
A Learning Community.

A true learning community, Core welcomes students from all academic majors and is an ideal home for those who have not yet decided on a specific field of study. Learning in Core is designed to extend beyond the classroom and throughout a student’s four years at Boston University. Co-curricular opportunities for students connected to the Core include:

- leadership opportunities including Core Mentoring Fellowships and Resident Assistantships
- recognition of achievement through awards, such as the Devlin Award (for excellence in writing) and the Polytropos Award (for seniors)
- cultural engagement, with trips to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Ballet, the American Repertory Theater, and other arts institutions in the Greater Boston area.

Joining the Core.

Joining Core does not take extra room in your schedule since Core students are exempt from the CAS General Education and Writing requirements. Students register for Core in the same way they would for courses from any other department. However, because we want to ensure that Core is the right fit, students are asked to complete an application before they enter Core in their first year. Most students apply to Core before they attend orientation in order to begin planning their fall semester as soon as possible. There are also opportunities to enter Core later on, at any time during a student’s time at Boston University.

Are you ready to apply to Core?

So, you’ve learned what makes the Core Curriculum a distinctive opportunity: seminar-based teaching; immediate close contact with faculty; integrated, interdisciplinary courses; and a syllabus made up of classic works and essential ideas. If this sounds right for you, visit our website and let us know you’d like to reserve a seat in Core next semester: www.bu.edu/core/apply
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many classes do students take in Core?
Students complete 6–8 Core courses to earn the “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences” designation on their transcript. For natural science majors (e.g. Biology), the Core natural science courses are optional to their completion of the program.

How many Core classes will I take each semester?
Students often take two classes per semester over the course of their first two years, but the curriculum is flexible. Certain Core classes are offered in the summer term.

Will Core fulfill General Education requirements?
Yes: Completion of Core satisfies the General Education divisional requirements for humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and math & computer sciences. Core also satisfies the College requirements for writing proficiency.

Students who elect not to take all eight Core classes can use their Core credits to satisfy individual General Education requirements.

How are Core classes interdisciplinary?
In a typical Core experience, a first-year Core student examines the dual account of creation in Genesis in his or her Humanities class, while looking at the Big Bang in Natural Science, and discussing how we are to understand, in scientific terms, an event that occurred outside of time and space and that, by definition, could have no cause. Second-year students, meanwhile, read Milton’s Paradise Lost in Humanities against the background of the epic tradition studied in the first year, from Homer through Dante, and so with a direct understanding of the vision Milton is both reshaping and subverting. At the same time, the study of Machiavelli and Hobbes in Social Sciences opens up the brutal political, religious and ideological conflicts that Milton participated in before writing his great epic.

About the Core Courses
The courses of the Core Curriculum build on one another, and are designed to be taken in order. Many students complete Core in their Freshman and Sophomore years, satisfying their General Education requirements early on in their time at BU, while others spread the courses out across their four years of study. Students who choose to take only part of the Core program can satisfy their remaining Gen Ed requirements by taking courses from other departments that carry Divisional Studies credit. Although most students begin Core their Freshman year, the program is flexible, so each of the Core courses (particularly the “second-year” courses) can be taken at any time in a student’s career.

The following courses can be used to satisfy Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Writing requirements, and to earn credit toward many majors:

**FIRST YEAR - FALL**
cc 101 : Ancient Worlds (HU)
cc 111 : Origins: The Cosmos, Earth, Life & Human Beings (NS)

**FIRST YEAR - SPRING**
cc 102 : The Way: Antiquity and the Medieval World (HU)
cc 112 : Religion, Social Thought & the Roots of Society (SS)

**SECOND YEAR - FALL**
cc 201 : The Renaissance (HU)
cc 211 : Power, Economics, and Political Forms (SS)

**SECOND YEAR - SPRING**
cc 202 : From the Enlightenment to Modernity (HU)
cc 212 : Reality: Science and the Modern World (NS)

Visit www.bu.edu/core/courses for up-to-date course descriptions, syllabi, and other academic information.

“There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away.” - Dickinson