Creating your own Minor in the Core Curriculum

The **Interdisciplinary Core Minor** is a way to explore further one or more of the engaging questions or themes encountered in Core classes.

The Core Minor has a uniquely interdisciplinary reach, enabling you to link texts and ideas across departmental, methodological and historical boundaries.

Completion of the Minor involves classes taken in multiple departments. Through this interdisciplinary coursework you’ll obtain more extensive and deep understanding of the ideas, art, music and texts you encountered first in the Core classroom.

Students are eligible to begin the Minor after taking any one of the following two-course sequences available in Core: CC 101/102 (First-Year Humanities); CC 201/202 (Second-Year Humanities); CC 112/211 (Social Sciences); or CC 111/212 (Natural Sciences). Additionally:

- **Students will first consult with their Core advisor to select a custom pathway of courses**
- Students undertaking the Core Minor will take at least four other four-credit courses;
- among these, at least two must come from two CAS departments outside of Core, and
- at least two must be 300-level or higher (unless permission to substitute is obtained).

The culmination of the Core Minor is the **capstone workshop**, in which students complete a major paper or project that crosses at least two fields of study. Students working on their capstone project will enroll in the two-credit workshop course, **CC 250**.

**WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS OF THE CORE MINOR?**

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FOCUSED STUDY.** The Minor allows you to explore an aspect of the curriculum in greater depth by taking relevant classes in Core and various CAS departments.

**MENTORING.** Students in the Core Minor each work on their theme and the capstone essay under the close direction of a faculty mentor.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY SCOPE.** You will be able to deliberately pursue knowledge across disciplinary boundaries.

**A LEARNING COMMUNITY.** Through the capstone workshop you will participate in an exchange of ideas with a small group of peers who share a common intellectual background gained in the Core courses. Further, each student will be invited to present his or her work at a public event attended by the larger community of Core students, faculty and alumni.

**THE CAPSTONE PROJECT**

Meeting weekly with fellow workshop members for one-hour sessions, students will prepare proposals of their final project; present preliminary versions for group critique; and receive instruction on rhetoric in preparation for the final formal presentation. The workshop is designed to strengthen skills in writing, speaking and digital communication, and acts as a “creative incubator” in which ideas can be nourished, developed and articulated.

Students who would like to register for the Core Minor must identify and be ready to pursue a central idea, theme or question. To give you an idea of the type of course selections and project themes that might be suitable for your minor program, we offer you the following examples of hypothetical pathways to fulfilling the Core Minor requirements. next page >>
>> EXAMPLES OF COURSE PATHWAYS FOR THE CORE MINOR:

Hypothetical Example 1. **Focus: the relationship of literature to social and national identity.**
Starting Core sequence: CC 101 and CC 102 (Humanities)
Additional Core classes: CC 112 (SS), which studies culture, ethnography and religion or CC 201, which examines the emergence of Europe
Departmental options: History classes which explore the relation of culture and identity, such as HI 191 (“What Is Europe?”) and HI 315 (“The American West”); or courses which explore national literary traditions, such as CL 221 (“Greek Tragedy”), EN 392 (“Modern Irish Literature”), or LJ 282 (“The Samurai in Myth and History”)

Hypothetical Example 2. **Focus: encounters with different cultures in the work of an author associated strongly with a national tradition, such as Montaigne (France) or Cervantes (Spain).**
Starting Core sequence: CC 201 and CC 202 (Humanities)
Additional Core classes: CC 112 (SS), which among other topics looks at the encounter between Western religion and Eastern cultures
Departmental options: RN 410 (“Religion, Community and Culture in Medieval Spain”) explores the intersection of cultures, and HI 213 (“Sacred and Secular Power in Christianity and Islam”) provides essential background. Numerous courses examine examples of cultural mixing, including LX 420 (“Spanish in the United States”), RN 312 (“Buddhism in America”) and AN 327 (“Islam in Africa”).

Hypothetical Example 3. **Focus: the links between science and broader cultural questions.**
Starting Core sequence: CC 111 and CC 212 (Natural Sciences)
Additional Core classes: CC 202 (HU), whose introduction to Modernism engages with issues raised by the study of quantum theory and relativity in CC 212
Departmental options: There is hardly any department which does not offer courses touching upon the question of how science and culture are interrelated. Choices include: RN 242 (“Magic, Science and Religion”); PH 272 (“Science Technology and Values”); HI 302 (“Science and American Culture”); BI 119 (“Sociobiology”); GE 250 (“The Fate of Nations: Climate, Resources and Institutions”); and SO 277 (“Technology and Society”).

>> Visit [www.bu.edu/core/minor](http://www.bu.edu/core/minor) to see additional examples of pathways for Core Minor courses around your specific areas of interest.

**HOW TO BEGIN**

Begin your pursuit of the Core Minor by choosing a faculty advisor, who will be responsible for approving all courses taken and will supervise the writing of your capstone project. It is expected that faculty advisors will be associated with the Core, though the advisory committee may approve other advisors in particular cases.

Once an advisor has been selected, you will submit a brief written statement outlining the pathway you will focus on with your coursework and capstone project. Once the topic has been approved, you and your advisor will consult regularly to ensure a coherent plan of study which satisfies the class requirements for the Minor with coursework in relevant departments, including ones new to you.

For more information, contact the Core Minor faculty advisors, Prof. Kyna Hamill (kyna@bu.edu) and Prof. Catherine Klancer (chudak@bu.edu), or call 617-353-5404.