Core and a History of Art & Architecture Major

Core classes are conducted as seminars capped at 16 students, led by full-time faculty. Students form a close relation with faculty and other students in class and in optional extra-curricular activities, while developing the skills necessary for success in upper-level seminars in their major.

Students in Core study artists such as Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and the German Expressionist painters within a broad historical and cultural overview providing invaluable context for other coursework in Art & Architecture. We study the Parthenon while looking at the role of Athens in the ancient world, the Sistine Chapel alongside the revival of classical forms in authors of the Renaissance, and Goya in the context of Romantic poetry’s reaction to the Enlightenment. CC 101 students study Greek art at the Museum of Fine Arts in relation to the Greek literature and philosophy examined in class, while CC 102 students look at Asian art in light of their study of Confucius, Laozi and the Bhagavad-Gita.

In Core Social Sciences we read historians such as Thucydides and Ibn Khaldun, as well as authors such as Locke, Adam Smith, Tocqueville and Marx whose works shaped the world we live in. Core Natural Science studies not only the natural world and our relation to it, but also, in conjunction with the Humanities and Natural Sciences, how our relation to nature is interconnected with human culture.

Students typically take CC 101 and 102 in their first year; however, as long as the Humanities courses are taken in order, Core classes can be taken at any time during your BU career.

Students who complete Core have “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences” recorded on their official Boston University transcript. Students who complete the Core with a grade of at least B+ in their Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

Core, Hub requirements, and your schedule

Since Core satisfies your Hub general education requirements there is plenty of room to complete the program alongside your major requirements. Students who take all of Core fulfill all Hub and Writing requirements. For example:

- CC 101 gives Hub credit for Global Citizenship, Aesthetic Exploration, and Creativity / Innovation.
- CC 102 gives WR 120 credit.
- CC 111 and 212 give Hub credit for Scientific Inquiry I and II and Quantitative Reasoning I and II, as well as for Teamwork / Collaboration and Critical Thinking.
- CC 112 and 211 give Hub credit for Social Inquiry I and II as well as Global Citizenship, Historical Consciousness, Critical Thinking and a Writing Intensive course.

For students pursuing a double major, Core classes can be a valuable asset. Find our factsheet about equivalencies at www.bu.edu/core/about/factsheets to learn how Core courses count toward credit in particular majors.

For more information contact Prof. Nelson at nelson@bu.edu / 617-353-5404 or Chris McMullen in the Advising Office: cmcmull@bu.edu / 617-353-2400.

Whenever you’re on campus, please feel free to stop by the Core Office for a visit. We’re in CAS 119, 685 Commonwealth Ave, by the Tsai Auditorium, near the GSU.