CAS Core for Visual Arts Majors

CFA Visual Arts Majors can complete their Writing and BU Hub requirements through Core, a program that examines the visual arts within an overview of the Western and Eastern cultural traditions.

Core incorporates the study of artists such as Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and German expressionism within a broad historical and cultural overview. Core students study the Parthenon while looking at the role of Athens in the ancient world, the Sistine Chapel alongside the Renaissance revival of classical forms, and Goya in the context of Romantic poetry’s reaction to the Enlightenment.

Core Humanities classes integrate literature, philosophy, religion, drama, the visual arts and music in ways that allow students to expand their lens on the worlds that we study.

In the first-year Core Humanities, CC 101 and CC 102, students study the cultures of Greece and Rome and the movement to Christianity. Our study of Dante’s Commedia examines the visual art and music of Florentine culture that would go on to stimulate many other artists of the Renaissance. We engage with the aesthetics emerging out of Asian texts such as the Analects of Confucius and the Daodejing. In the second year, CC 201 and CC 202, students study the cultural shifts—such as the rediscovery of the art of the classical world—which determined how the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, and Modernity have transformed the classics and created new innovations in art and music.

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The Core Social Science courses, **CC 112** and **CC 211**, work with the Core Humanities by looking at topics such as human integration, alienation, and inequality within societies. In CC 112 we consider culture, assimilation and the role of religion in works such as St. Augustine, William James and Émile Durkheim. In CC 211 students read thinkers like Marx, Rousseau, Hobbes, and Weber, whose ideas changed the modern world and who remain profoundly relevant now.

### Core, Hub requirements, and your schedule

Since **Core satisfies your Hub general education and Writing requirements**, there is plenty of room, even in a CFA schedule, for Core courses. For example:

- **CC 101** gives Hub credit for Global Citizenship, Aesthetic Exploration, and Creativity / Innovation.
- **CC 102** gives WR 120 credit as well as Oral / Signed Communication.
- **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.

Visual Arts students who are unable to attend the general lecture Tuesday mornings may listen to it online, by arrangement with their seminar leader.

Core classes are conducted as seminars, with an average class size of 15, and led by full-time faculty from departments throughout CAS. Students form a close relationship with faculty and other students in class and in extra-curricular activities including visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, the theater, and the opera.

CFA students who complete all 8 Core courses are eligible for Core Honors, and receive an annotation on their official transcript which reads: **“Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences.”**

For more information, feel free to contact Professor Stephanie Nelson, the Director of the Core, at nelson@bu.edu and 617-358-0840. Or, get in touch with the Core main office at core@bu.edu and 617-353-5404.

CFA majors interested in making Core part of their BU program are welcome to drop by the Core office in the College of Arts & Sciences any time, to speak with faculty, staff, or current students. We look forward to hearing from you.