CAS Core for CFA Music Majors

CFA Music Majors can complete their BU Writing and Hub requirements through classes in the Core Curriculum, a program that incorporates a study of major innovations in music in an overview of the Western and Eastern cultural traditions.

Core incorporates the study of artists such as Monteverdi, Mozart and Beethoven within a broad historical and cultural overview that gives a deeper understanding of their particular artistic creations. Core students look at Monteverdi and the invention of opera as part of the greater movement from the Renaissance to the Baroque, and against the background of a study of Greek tragedy and its place in Ancient Greek culture. Students consider Beethoven in the light of a broader understanding of the move from the Enlightenment to the Romantic period and the radical break made in the 18th and 19th Century from the world that preceded it.

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

The first-year Humanities courses—CC 101 and CC 102—study the cultures of Greece and Rome, and the movement to Christianity. Of particular interest to Music majors is our study of Dante’s Divine Comedy, and of the art and music inspired by Florentine culture that would go on to stimulate artists of the Renaissance. Students will also engage with aesthetics emerging out of Asian texts such as the Daodejing and the Analects of Confucius.

In the second year, CC 201 and CC 202, students study the cultural shifts which determined how the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and Modernity transformed the classics and created the modern world.

Dante: “I’ve brought you here through intellect and art; from now on, let your pleasure be your guide.”
The Core Social Science courses—CC 112 and CC 211—work with the Core Humanities by looking at topics including the relation of nature and culture and human integration and alienation within different societies. CC 112 (“Religion, Community, and the Birth of the Social Sciences”) examines the nature of society and religion by looking at Augustine’s attempt to understand the “other,” at Durkheim’s argument that religion is fundamentally about society, and at the encounter of 16th century Spanish missionaries with the natives of South America and of Jesuits with China. And in CC 211 (“Power, Political Forms and Economics”), we look at the beginning of the modern nation state and ideas of human rights and self-determination while reading foundational works such as Ibn Khaldun, Hobbes, Rousseau, Tocqueville, Adam Smith and Marx.

Core, Hub requirements, and your schedule
Since Core satisfies your Hub general education requirements there is plenty of room to take Core courses, even for a busy CFA major. 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.

CFA students who are unable to attend general lectures due to schedule conflicts may listen to them 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, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the opera.

CFA Students who complete all 8 Core courses are eligible for Core Honors, and receive an annotation on their official Boston University transcript, reading: “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences.”

CFA majors interested in making Core part of their BU program are welcome to drop by the Core office (CAS 119) any time, to speak with faculty, staff, or current students. We look forward to hearing from you!

We are glad to put you in touch with past CFA and other non-CAS students who have taken Core courses, who can tell you how they used Core to their benefit.

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.