CAS Core for CFA Theater Majors

Theater Majors in CFA can complete their BU Writing and Hub requirements through Core, a program that locates the most important moments of drama within an overview of the Western and Eastern cultural traditions.

The four-semester Core Humanities sequence integrates a study of Greek tragedy, Shakespeare, Chekhov and modern drama with the music, visual arts, philosophy, religion and literature of their times.

Students in CC 101 examine the interrelation of Greek drama and Athens, the culture that created both tragedy and comedy in the West. In CC 102 we look at Asian thought, and at Christianity and Dante—the setting of the medieval passion plays. CC 201 explores Hamlet and Shakespeare’s sonnets and some of his influences such as Michel de Montaigne and Cervantes’ Don Quixote against the emergence of nations in Europe and the Renaissance, while CC 202 returns us, through the Enlightenment, to the modern world—including the importance of Chekhov and realism—with a new ability to see where we are, by seeing where we have come from.
The Core Social Science courses, CC 112 and CC 211, work with the Core Humanities by looking at topics such as human identity, alienation, and the role of power within societies. In CC 112 we consider the relation of religion, the individual and culture in works such as Augustine, William James, and 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 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.
- 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.

Theater Arts students who cannot 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 extracurricular 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 experience are welcome to drop by the Core office in CAS 119 any time, to speak with faculty, staff, or current students. We look forward to hearing from you.