Core and a Classics Major

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

>> Core Humanities is ideal for Classics majors as it provides a wide overview of the role of Classics in Western civilization. CC 101, first semester Core, examines the art, literature, history and philosophy of Ancient Greece in comparison to the cultures of the Hebrew Bible and Mesopotamia. Second-semester locates Virgil’s Aeneid first in relation to the Gospels, and then to Virgil’s great successor, Dante, while also looking at Confucius’ Analects, the Daodejing, and the Bhagavad-Gita as a contrast to the Western perspective. Second-year Humanities extends this study by examining the influence of the Classical world from the Renaissance through to 20th c. Europe and America.

>> Core Social Science further broadens a student’s understanding of Western culture by moving from historians and ethnographers such as Thucydides, Tacitus and Ibn Khaldun, to authors such as Hobbes, Tocqueville and Marx, whose works continue to shape the modern world.

>> Core Natural Science studies not only the natural world and our relation to it, but also how human beings’ relation to nature is interconnected with human culture.

Core classes integrate a study of the Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. Students generally take CC 101 and CC 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 Aesthetic Exploration, Global Citizenship, 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 Classics majors CC 101 and 102 count for one Classics 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.