CAS Core for Undergraduates in COM

Students in COM can complete their Writing and Hub requirements by taking classes in the Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum, a program that explores the Western and Eastern cultural traditions through interdisciplinary courses in the Humanities, the Social Sciences and the Natural Sciences.

In the four-semester Core Humanities sequence, students study crucial works of music, visual arts, philosophy, religion and literature from the ancient to the contemporary world. Students can gain credit for WR 120 and WR 150 as well as any other Hub requirement through Core classes.

The Core Social Science courses, CC 112 and CC 211, work with the Core Humanities by looking at topics that inform the human character such as the role of culture in community; alienation; and the use of power within societies.

The Core Natural Science courses, CC 111 and CC 212, are designed for non-science and math majors and explore the creative side of science with a focus on how the sciences fit with the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dante: "I've brought you here through intellect and art; from now on, let pleasure be your guide."

Dickinson: "Dwell in possibility."
COM students may choose to complete the whole Core program, or take only one or two Core classes to satisfy certain of their requirements.

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 film screenings, the Museum of Science, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the theater.

Note: First-year students who are unable to attend the general lecture Tuesday mornings because of course scheduling conflicts may listen to the lecture content via the course webpage, by arrangement with their seminar leader.

Core provides other opportunities, to CAS and COM students alike, such as:

- Scholarships for Summer Study in Athens
- Core housing in central campus
- Leadership opportunities including Core Peer Tutoring fellowships
- The Core Polytropos Award and the Devlin Award for excellence in writing
- Visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the opera and symphony, and other cultural sites in Boston
- An undergraduate society with weekly discussion meetings
- An annual literary journal in publication for more than 25 years

COM 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.”

Montaigne: “Mon métier et mon art, c’est vivre.”

Bacon: “The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery.”

>> COM 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 or staff, or to be put in touch with alumni or current students who used Core to complement their courses in Film & Television, Journalism, Advertising, or Public Relations. We look forward to hearing from you!

>> 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.