Core and a Comparative Literature Major

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

Core Humanities integrates a study of literature, philosophy, art and music, from Mesopotamia to 20th century Europe and America, in a broad historical overview, providing invaluable context for Comp Lit majors. Students explore the roots of Western culture in the Classical world, contrast the perspective of the “old world” and the new, and compare works such as Confucius’ Analects, the Daodejing, and the Bhagavad-Gita to the perspectives of the Western tradition.

Core Social Sciences furthers this study through a reading of writers such as Thucydides and Ibn Khaldun, Hobbes, William James, Tocqueville, Marx and Evans-Pritchard, who deeply considered a broad range of cultures in exploring the human condition and whose influence continues to shape the modern world.

Finally, Core Natural Science studies not only the natural world and our relation to it, but also, in conjunction with the Humanities, 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 Core 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 BU transcript. Students who complete the Core Curriculum with a grade of at least B+ in their Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

Core, Hub requirements, and your schedule

Students who take all of Core fulfill all Hub and Writing requirements. And since Core satisfies Hub general education requirements, there is plenty of room to complete or customize the program alongside your major requirements. For example:

- CC 101 gives Hub credit for Global Citizenship, Aesthetic Exploration, and Creativity / Innovation.
- CC 102 gives WR 120 credit and credit for 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 for Global Citizenship, Historical Consciousness, Critical Thinking and a Writing Intensive course.
- For comp Lit Majors, CC 101 and 102 together also count for XL 222.
- For comp Lit Majors, CC 201 and 202 together also count for an XL 300 class.

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: ccmcmull@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.