Core and a Romance Studies 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 the literature, philosophy, art and music of the European tradition in a broad historical overview, providing an invaluable context for Romance Studies majors. Students explore the roots of Western culture in the Classical world, contrast the perspective of the “old world” and the “new”, and look at works such as the Daodejing and the Bhagavad-Gita for an important perspective from which to view the Western tradition.

Core Social Sciences furthers this study through a reading of historians such as Thucydides and Ibn Khaldun, and by examining the European encounter with other cultures in authors such as Sepúlveda, las Casas, and Matteo Ricci. We also consider the nature of society itself, as seen by authors such as Hobbes, Tocqueville, Durkheim, Adam Smith and Marx, authors 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.

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 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

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 to work neatly alongside your major. 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 Global Citizenship, Historical Consciousness, Critical Thinking and a Writing Intensive 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.