CAS Core for Education Majors

SED Majors can complete Writing and Hub requirements in the Core Curriculum, a program that gives future educators an overview of the Western and Eastern cultural traditions and the Social and Natural Sciences.

Core classes are conducted as seminars, with an average class size of 15, and led by full-time faculty. Students form a close relation with faculty and other students from around the University, in class and in extra-curricular activities including visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, the theater, the Museum of Science, and the opera.

The four-semester Core Humanities sequence examines the greatest works of literature, religion, philosophy and the fine arts in a chronological sequence that gives students a sense of the major cultural changes that have affected world history. Students in CC 101 examine the Bible, Homer, Greek drama and Athens, the culture that gave us philosophy, history, tragedy and democracy; in CC 102 we look at such works as Aristotle, Confucius, Laozi, the Bhagavad-Gita and Dante. CC 201 explores the Renaissance and the rise of modern Europe, studying artists and writers such as Machiavelli, Michelangelo, Shakespeare and Montaigne, while CC 202 returns us, through Romanticism and the Enlightenment, to the modern world, with a new ability to see where we are, by seeing where we have come from.

The Core Social Sciences—CC 112 and CC 211—work with the Core Humanities by looking at foundational authors such as Herodotus, Rousseau, Hobbes, Marx, Weber, and William James, whose ideas changed the modern world and who remain profoundly relevant now. We consider fundamental questions such as the role of

---

Montaigne: “Mon métier et mon art, c’est vivre.”
government and the human connection to and alienation from society, and look at the development of the social sciences as a new way of examining the human condition.

The Core Natural Science class, **CC 111**—“Origins”—looks at the question of where we come from, via the points-of-view of Astronomy, Earth Science, Biology, Anthropology and Archaeology. **CC 212**—“Reality: Science and the Modern World”—complements Core’s move into modernity, examining quantum theory, relativity, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence. Both courses are concept driven and designed to give non-science majors a deep sense of what goes into scientific thinking.

Students are able to take Core at their own pace. There is no penalty for taking only part of the program, meaning students can use Core courses to satisfy as many or as few of their requirements as they choose.

---

Core also provides other opportunities, to CAS and SED 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
- An annual literary journal in publication for more than 25 years

Because Core is interdisciplinary, Core students learn to think beyond the boundaries of a particular discipline and to develop the perspective necessary for creative and innovative thought. Students who complete the program are eligible for Core Honors and, as a mark that they have achieved a well-rounded education, receive an annotation on their official BU transcript:

> “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences.”

NB: Students who are unable to attend the general Core lecture on Tuesday mornings may listen to it online, by arrangement with their seminar leader.

---

For more information, contact Professor Stephanie Nelson at nelson@bu.edu or 617-353-5404, or write to the staff at core@bu.edu.

We would be delighted to have you stop by for a visit! The Core office is located in the College of Arts & Sciences building, Room 119, right next to the Tsai Center.

To find out more about Core, please visit www.bu.edu/core/learnmore.