Core and a Sociology 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 provides an important context for Sociology students, by examining authors as different as Homer, Confucius, Laozi and Dante, and their very different views of human society. Core studies cultures as varied as the complex Mesopotamian cities, the early Hebrew nomads, and the Greek city-state through to the rise of the European nation-state and modern America, all as seen through their art, literature, philosophy, and music.

The Core Social Science sequence, CC 112 and 211, is invaluable for Social Science majors as it studies the foundations, development and interrelation of the various social sciences. Students will examine such crucial thinkers as Thucydides, Ibn Khaldun, Hobbes, Locke, Tocqueville, Marx, Weber, Durkheim and Malinowski, as well as historical case studies such as those of las Casas and the Spanish encounter with Native Americans, and Ricci and the Jesuits’ encounter with China.

The Core Natural Science courses—CC 111: “Origins”, and CC 212, which studies relativity, quantum theory and neuroscience—complement the Core social sciences classes by considering not only the natural world, but also how human beings’ relation to nature is interconnected with human culture.

Although students generally take CC 101 and CC 102 in their first year, as long as the Core Humanities courses are taken in order, Core 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 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.
- For Sociology majors, CC 112 and CC 211 together count for SO 100.

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.