Core for students in the Pardee School

Core’s focus on the foundational texts and topics of a broad range of historical periods and national traditions gives Pardee students a crucial intellectual context for their studies.

Core classes are conducted as seminars capped at 15 students, led by full-time faculty. Students form a close relation with faculty and other students in the classroom and in optional extra-curricular activities, while developing skills necessary for success in upper-level classes in any major.

>> Core Humanities provides Pardee students with an invaluable insight into the background cultures and beliefs of both the West and Asia. Students examine and compare radically different civilizations, such as the large centralized cities of early Mesopotamia, the Greek city-state, the Roman Empire and Imperial China, and look as well at the rise of the European nation-state. Core’s study of the art, literature and philosophy of many cultures gives depth and resonance to students’ understanding of international relations in the modern world.

>> Core Social Sciences furthers this study through a reading of historians such as Herodotus, Thucydides and the great 14th century Arab writer Ibn Khaldun, as well as authors such as Hobbes, Adam Smith, Tocqueville, Weber and Marx whose works continue to shape the modern world.

>> 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 typically take CC 101 & 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 wish to continue in Core may complete a Minor in Core Liberal Arts & Sciences by completing CC 101 & 102, and any other four Core courses.

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 Curriculum with a grade of at least B+ in Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

Core and your schedule

Students who take all eight semesters of Core fulfill all Hub and Writing requirements, including Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning. Since Core satisfies Hub general education requirements there is plenty of room to complete the program. For example:

- CC 101 gives Hub credit for Aesthetic Exploration, Global Citizenship, and Creativity / Innovation.
- CC 102 gives WR 120 credit and Hub credit for Oral / Signed Communication.
- CC 111 and 212 give Scientific Inquiry I and II and Quantitative Reasoning I & II as well as Teamwork / Collaboration and Critical Thinking.
- International Relations majors who complete both CC 112 & CC 211 will get credit for one class in either the Intl. Systems & World Order track or the Regional Politics & Cultural Anthro. tracks.

For students pursuing a double major, the course credit earned in Core can be a valuable asset. Visit www.bu.edu/core/hub/core-and-your-major to learn which Core classes can give you credit for required courses toward particular majors.

For more information about Core, contact Prof. Stephanie Nelson at 617-353-5404 and nelson@bu.edu, or Chris McMullen in the Advising Office: cmcmull@bu.edu, 617-353-2400.

And whenever you’re on campus, please feel free to stop by the Core Office for a visit. We’re in CAS Room 119, at 685 Commonwealth Avenue, adjacent to Tsai Auditorium.