Core and a Political Science Major

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 class and in extra-curricular activities, while developing the skills necessary for success in upper-level seminars in their major.

The Core Humanities provide Political Science students with an invaluable insight into the background cultures and beliefs of both the West and Asia. Students examine and compare civilizations as different as the large centralized cities of early Mesopotamia, the Greek democratic city-state, the Roman Empire, Imperial China, and the European nation-state while looking at the art, music, literature and philosophy that express the deeper values of each political system.

The Core Social Sciences, CC 112 and 211, provide an invaluable benefit to Poli Sci majors, through a study of the foundations, development and interrelation of the various social sciences. We examine such crucial figures in political theory as Aristotle, Ibn Khaldun, Hobbes, Locke, Tocqueville, Marx, Weber and Durkheim, and come to understand their contributions within a larger context.

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

Students generally take CC 101 & 102 in their first year; however, as long as the Humanities courses are taken in order, Core classes can be taken at any point during your time at BU.

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

Core can 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 and II as well as Teamwork / Collaboration and Critical Thinking.
- For Political Sciences majors, completion of CC 211 also gives credit for PO 392.

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 see how Core classes can be used to earn credit for required courses in particular majors.

For more information about Core please contact Prof. Nelson at nelson@bu.edu / 617-353-5404, or Chris McMullen in the CAS 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 Room 119, at 685 Commonwealth Avenue, adjacent to Tsai Auditorium.