CC 101: The Ancient World

Syllabus

Fall 2000
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Tsai Center

Core Professors

Professor James Devlin (Philosophy)  Professor Stephanie Nelson (Classics)
Professor Christopher Lehrich (Core)  Professor Allen Speight (Philosophy)
Professor Brian Jorgensen (English)  Professor Kenneth Lapatin (Art History)
Professor Gregory Fried (Core)  Professor David Green (English)
Professor Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)  Professor John Carleval (Classics)
Professor John Newton (English)  Professor Abigail Gillman (Modern Languages)
Professor Kathleen Fisher (Core)  Professor Mark Kremer (Core)
Professor Katherine O'Connor (Modern Languages)

Course Description: The Humanities Core is a four-semester sequence of courses, each organized around a close study of some of the best and most influential works of literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts. The sequence develops chronologically, allowing students both to understand a text from the perspective of its author and original audience, and to discover the qualities that make it a timeless and enduring classic.

The first semester of the Humanities Core will acquaint students with two seminal strands of the Western tradition: the Hebrew Scriptures and the world of the ancient Greeks. We shall also consider the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and other peoples to whom the Hebrews and Greeks are indebted. Among the topics to which we shall be attending: the nature of the hero, and the relationship between heroes and the ordinary; God or the gods; ancient cities; the erotic; the meaning of justice. The themes of the course include: human experience of the divine; war—that is, man’s struggle with human and natural forces whose essence is strife; the development of logos (human reason or cognition) as a response to the divine and to the forces of nature; and the development of art—meaning science, technology, and the ability to create alternative experience.

Books: The books you should purchase and read are available at the Boston University Bookstore. The last page of this syllabus provides a list of these books.

Grading: Final grades will be determined by your seminar professor and will follow the University curve (A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, etc.). The grade will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and participation valued in approximately the following proportions:

Midterm exam 10%  Seminar papers 50%
Final exam 25%  Seminar participation 15%

Exams will cover materials in the lectures, seminars, and readings. They will include objective, short essay, and long essay questions. Choices will be offered. Paper topics will be assigned, and papers graded by seminar instructors.
Core Humanities 1st Semester, CC 101

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CAS CC101 HP Lec Devlin TR 9:30-11:00P TSAI
CAS CC101 HS Dis Devlin F 3:00-5:00P CAS 228

"Life is a series of surprises. We do not guess today the mood, the pleasure, the power of tomorrow, when we are building up our being. Of lower states, of acts of routine and sense, we can tell somewhat, but the total growths and universal movements of the soul are incalculable. I can know that truth is divine and helpful; but how it shall help me I can have no guess, for so to be is the sole inlet of so to know." --Ralph Waldo Emerson

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time. --T. S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"
Lecture and Exam Schedule

CC 101: The Ancient World
Tsai Center, TR 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 9/5/00:

(1) *Gilgamesh*: Two-thirds god
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 1-6

*Lecture*: Professor Devlin: *Introduction to the Core*

Thursday, 9/7/00:

(2) *Gilgamesh*: One-third mortal
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 7-11

*Lecture*: Professor Jorgensen: *Who Is Gilgamesh?*

Tuesday, 9/12/00:

(3) *Genesis*: Creation, Fall, and Flood
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 1-11

*Lecture*: Professor Zimansky: *The Life and Death of Cities in Ancient Mesopotamia*

Thursday, 9/14/00:

(4) *Genesis*: The Patriarchs
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 12-35

*Lecture*: Professor Gillman: *Introduction to the Book of Genesis*

Tuesday, 9/19/00:

(5) *Samuel*: The Coming of Kingship
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15

*Lecture*: Professor Nelson: *Exodus and Establishment*

Thursday, 9/21/00:

(6) *Samuel*: David, Jonathan, Saul
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 16-31

*Lecture*: Professors Devlin and Jorgensen: *David Young and Old*
CORE PAPER #1 due this week.

Tuesday, 9/26/00:  
(7) Samuel: David the young king  
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-24; 1 Kings, chapters 1-2

Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture

Thursday, 9/28/00:  
(8) Job  
Reading: Job, chapters 1-28

Lecture: Professors Devlin and Jorgensen: On the Book of Job

Tuesday, 10/3/00  
10:30 a.m.:  
(9) Job  
Reading: Job, chapters 28-42

Lecture: Professor Wiesel on the Book of Job

Thursday, 10/5/00:  
(10) Homer, The Odyssey: Telemakhos and the Heroes  
Reading: Odyssey, books 1-4

Lecture: Professor Speight on the Greek Gods

Tuesday, 10/10/00: NO CLASS. MONDAY SCHEDULE.

Thursday, 10/12/99:  
(11) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus and the journey home  
Reading: Odyssey, books 5-12

Lecture: Professor Roochnik: Telemakhos and the Protean World of the Odyssey

Tuesday, 10/17/00:  
(12) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus on Ithaka  
Reading: Odyssey, books 13-16

Lecture: Professor Nelson on The Odyssey

Thursday, 10/19/00:  
(13) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus, Penelope, and the death of the suitors  
Reading: Odyssey, books 17-24

Lecture: Professor Esposito: The Odyssey of Penelope
Tuesday, 10/24/00:  
(14) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*  

*Lecture: Professor Speight on the Emergence of Tragedy*

Thursday, 10/26/00:  
(15) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*  

*Lecture: Professor Lapatin on Greek Art*

Tuesday, 10/31/00:  
MIDTERM EXAM.

Thursday, 11/2/00:  
(16) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers*  

*Lecture: Professor Esposito: On The Libation Bearers*

**CORE PAPER #2 due this week.**

Tuesday, 11/7/00:  
(17) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Eumenides*  

*Lecture: Professor Nelson on The Oresteia*

Thursday, 11/9/00:  
(18) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  

*Lecture: Professor Samons on the History of Greece and Athens*

Tuesday, 11/14/00:  
(19) Plato, *The Republic*: What is Justice?  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Book 1  

*Lecture: Professor Devlin on Book 1 of The Republic*

Thursday, 11/16/00:  
(20) Plato, *The Republic*: A City in Speech  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 2-3  

*Lecture: Professor Rochnik: *The Republic*, Books 2-3: Socrates vs. Homer*
Tuesday, 11/21/00:  (21) Plato, *The Republic*: Perfecting the City  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 4-5  

*Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Plato on Love, Sex, and Desire*

Thursday, 11/23/00:  NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING VACATION

Tuesday, 11/28/00:  (22) Plato, *The Republic*: The Line and the Cave  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 6-7  

*Professors Jorgensen, Marscher, Mohr, and Wildman: Integrating Forum*

Thursday 11/30/00:  (23) Plato, *The Republic*: Beyond Being  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 6-7  

*Lecture: Professor Devlin on Plato's Divided Line*

Tuesday 12/5/00:  (24) Plato, *The Republic*: The Five Regimes  
Reading: The Republic, Book 8  

*Lecture: Professor Roochnik: Socrates' Critique of the Protean Democracy*

Thursday, 12/7/00:  (25) Plato, *The Republic*: Philosophic Justice  
Reading: The Republic, Books 1-9  

*Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Coordinating Lecture: On Justice*

**CORE PAPER #3 due this week.**

Tuesday, 12/12/00:  (26) Plato, *The Republic*: Saving the Myth  
Reading: The Republic, Book 10  

*Lecture: Professor Devlin: Platonic Virtue and the Myth of Er*

Thursday, 12/14/00:  Study Period

Friday, 12/15/00:  FINAL EXAM, 12:30 p.m.
CC 101 Core Humanities I Reading List

Fall 2000

Gilgamesh, tr. David Ferry
(New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1992)
ISBN: 0-374-16227-1

The Bible, Revised Standard Version
ISBN: 0-452-00647-3
   Genesis, chapters 1-35
   1 Samuel
   2 Samuel
   1 Kings, chapters 1-2
   Job

Homer, The Odyssey, tr. Robert Fitzgerald
ISBN 0-374-52574-9

Aeschylus, The Oresteia, tr. Robert Fagles
(New York: Penguin, 1975)
ISBN: 0-14-04333-9

Plato, The Republic, tr. Allan Bloom
(New York: Basic Books (HarperCollins), 1968)
ISBN: 0-465-06934-7