Course description. The four semesters of Core Humanities explore some of the world's finest and most influential works of literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts. The semesters follow a historical sequence so that the great works can be studied as an evolving conversation about the enduring questions of human life. Our goal is to discover what the greatest works of the past have to say to us here, right now—to empower and deepen what the Chinese sage Confucius called human-heartedness.

The First Semester introduces two fundamental components of the Western tradition: the world of the Hebrew Scriptures and the culture of the ancient Greeks. We also consider the ancient Babylonians, to whom the Hebrews and Greeks were deeply indebted. Among the topics for the semester are: heroism and power, friendship, death and grief, sexuality and love, the city, and the journey home. Key issues include: the experience of God or the divine, the impact of war, the role of human reason, the search for justice, and the concept of beauty in the literary and visual arts.

Grades will be determined by your seminar professor according to the University's standard grading system, in which A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, and so forth. Final grades will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and class participation, in the following proportions:

| Midterm exam | 10% | Seminar papers | 50% |
| Final exam   | 25% | Seminar attendance and participation | 15% |

The final examination will be set by the faculty as a whole; the midterm will be set by individual seminar instructors. Examinations will be based on the lectures, seminars, and readings. They will include factual, short essay, and long essay questions.

Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University Writing Program. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the first-year Core Humanities (CC101 and CC102) receive credit for WR100. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year Core Humanities or the Core Social Sciences (either CC201/202 together or CC203/204 together) receive credit for WR150.

Each seminar will require approximately 18 pages of writing over the course of the semester. Two assignments will be common to all seminars: at least one summary/analysis paper (2 pages) and at least one close reading or thesis-argument paper about a single work (5 pages). Other writing assignments will be developed by individual seminar leaders. At least one of the writing assignments will focus on selected works of Near Eastern and Classical art in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.
The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core office, call 617-353-5404, or use the online reservation form at www.bu.edu/core/academics/tutoring. The tutors’ office is found in CAS 129.

On the Core website—http://bu.edu/core—students will find faculty office hours, reading lists, supplemental course material, a department activities and academic calendar, syllabi, tutor appointment forms and writing FAQs, and other resources. We hope you will also take advantage of the Core Blog at blogs.bu.edu/core, where you can stay up to date with Core events and participate in a wide-open conversation with Core lecturers and faculty about the issues of the course.

Academic Conduct. All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. Seminar leaders take the issue of plagiarism seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. If you have questions about what plagiarism and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work, consult the Academic Conduct Code at http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct or speak with your instructor.

Required textbooks are available at the BU Bookstore and are on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. Gilgamesh, trans. David Ferry (9780374523831)
4. Odysseus at Troy: Ajax, Hecuba, and Trojan Women, ed. Stephen Esposito (9781585103966)
6. Susan Woodford, The Parthenon (9780521226295)

Lecture Schedule:

- Lecture 1, September 4
  David Eckel (Core, Religion) on Gilgamesh

- Sunday, September 9
  Scavenger Hunt (noon) and Fruit Drop & Ice Cream Social (2pm), CAS rear lot

- Lecture 2, September 11
  Abigail Gilman (MLCL) on Genesis: “God in Search of Man”

- Lecture 3, September 18

- Lecture 4, September 25
  David Eckel on Exodus: “Four Ways to Read the Book of Exodus”

- Thursday, September 27
  Integrating Forum: “How We Know What We Know,” 7pm, Tsai Center

- Lecture 5, October 2
  Jay Samons (Classics) on Greek culture and civilization: “Why the Greeks?” and Stephanie Nelson (Classics) on The Odyssey, Books I-IV

- No Lecture, October 9
  Tuesday follows a Monday schedule

- Lecture 6, October 16
  Steve Esposito (Classics) on The Odyssey: “What is a Hero in Homer?”

- October 22 and 25
  Midterm Exams (for MWF and TR sections, respectively)

- Lecture 7, October 23
  Fred Kleiner (Art History): “Art and Politics on the Periclean Acropolis”

- Lecture 8, October 30
  Steve Esposito on Ajax: “What is Greek Tragedy? and Why Sophocles?”

- Lecture 9, November 6
  Kyna Hamill (Core): “Witnessing Tragedy in Euripides’ Hecuba”

- Lecture 10, November 13
  The Republic, Pt. 1: Jay Samons on Athenian Democracy and David Roochnik (Philosophy) on Plato’s Reaction

- Lecture 11, November 20
  The Republic, Pt. 2: Greg Fried (Philosophy, Suffolk University): “Platonic Education – Is it really relevant today?”

- Lecture 12, November 27

- Lecture 13, December 4
  The Republic, Pt. 4: David Roochnik: “Platonic Legacy – Any enduring lessons?”

- Lecture 14, December 11
  A Debate on Democracy, with Samons, Oxenberg, Roochnik, McConville

The date for the CC101 final will be confirmed before the end of September. At that time, the date, room location and start time will be announced in lecture, as well as posted to http://bu.edu/core/cc101.