CC 101: The Ancient World

Fall 2013, CORE CURRICULUM

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

LECTURES
Tuesdays 9:30-11 a.m. in the Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave.

COORDINATOR
Stephen Esposito, Dept. of Classics, 745 Comm Ave, Rm 410 espo@bu.edu

SEMINARS
B1 MWF 10-11 CAS 114B Patricia Larash plarash@bu.edu
B2 MWF 11-12 CAS 114B Kyna Hamill kyna@bu.edu
B3 TR 11-12:30 CAS 430 Abigail Gillman agillman@bu.edu
B4 MWF 1-2 CAS 114A Stephanie Nelson nelson@bu.edu
B5 TR 12:30-2 MUG 424 Catherine Klancer chudak@bu.edu
B6 MWF 12-1 CAS 201 Robert Richardson rossia@bu.edu
B8 TR 11-12:30 CAS 114B Stephen Esposito espo@bu.edu
B9 TR 3:30-5 CAS 227 Anita Patterson apatters@bu.edu
C1 TR 12:30-2 PRB 148 Thomas Michael tmichael@bu.edu
C2 MWF 3-4 CAS 220 Michael Prince mprince@bu.edu
C3 TR 11-12:30 CAS 119 Catherine Klancer chudak@bu.edu
C4 TR 2-3:30 CAS 114A Catherine Klancer chudak@bu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course engages with two foundational components of the Western tradition: the Hebrew Scriptures and the ancient Greeks. We will also study the ancient Near East and its influence on Jewish and Greek culture. We reflect on these traditions through a close and critical ‘reading’ of some of the world’s most influential and haunting works of literature, philosophy, religion, and art.

GRADES
These will be determined by your seminar professor according to Boston University’s standard grading system wherein 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%
Final exam 25%
Seminar papers 50%
Seminar attendance and participation 15%

The final exam will be set by the faculty as a whole; the midterm will be set by individual seminar instructors. Exams will be based on the lectures, seminars, and readings; they will include factual, short essay, and long essay questions.
WRITING
Writing is a crucial 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 (CC 101 and CC 102) receive credit for WR 100. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year Core Humanities or the Core Social Sciences (either CC 201/202 together or CC 203/204 together) receive credit for WR 150.

GOALS OF THE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS
§ Demonstrate grammatical proficiency.
§ Show an understanding of using a thesis supported by argument.
§ Offer skills in close reading and critical analysis of books and visual culture.

Your seminar leaders will assign writing assignments to help you meet these goals.

WRITING FELLOWS
The Core Writing Fellows will be available throughout the semester. They have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and know the Core texts. To make an appointment with a Writing Fellow in the Writing Center, stop by the Core office, call 617-353-5404, or use the online reservation form at www.bu.edu/core/academics/tutoring. The Writing Center is located near the Core office, in CAS 129.

CORE WEBSITE
At 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. Please take advantage of the Core Blog at blogs.bu.edu/core, where you can stay up to date on Core events and also participate in an engaging conversation with Core lecturers and faculty about the issues of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
The seven required CC 101 texts are available at the BU Bookstore and on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. Ferry, David    Gilgamesh        9780374523831
2. Alter, Robert   The Five Books of Moses  9780393333930
3. Homer          The Odyssey (trans. R. Fitzgerald)  9780374525743
4. Esposito, Stephen  Odysseus at Troy  9781585103966
5. Woodford, Susan The Parthenon        9780521226295
6. Plato         The Republic (trans. C. Reeve)  9780872207363
7. Strunk and White The Elements of Style (4th edition)  9780205309023
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 plagiarism and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people’s work, please consult the Academic Conduct Code on the CAS website at bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct or speak with your instructor.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
Sept. 3  Gilgamesh  Brian Jorgensen (Core emeritus)
Sept. 4  EVENT: Welcome to Campus Reception: 5 PM, CAS 119, all Core students & alums
Sept. 8  EVENT: The Annual Core Natural Sciences Fruit Drop, and All-Core BBQ

WEEK 2
Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
Sept. 10  Michael Zank (Religion)

WEEK 3
The Book of Genesis
Sept. 17  Rabbi Ariel Burger (Combined Jewish Philanthropies)
Sept. 20  EVENT: Boat Cruise on the Charles, and Museum of Science Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit

WEEK 4
The Book of Exodus
Sept. 24  Jonathan Klawans (Religion)

WEEK 5
Introduction to Greek culture and Homer’s Odyssey Books 1-8
Oct. 1  Stephanie Nelson (Director of Core; Classical Studies)
Oct. 4-7  EVENT: Core Scavenger Hunt (sign-up on Friday, turn-in on Monday)

WEEK 6
Penelope in The Odyssey
Oct. 8  Steve Esposito (Classical Studies)

WEEK 7
No lecture
Oct. 15  On this Tuesday, classes follow a Monday schedule
WEEK 8   The Political World of Fifth-Century Athens  
Oct. 22   Jay Samons (Classical Studies)  
Oct. 24-5   MIDTERM EXAM (in seminar sections)  

WEEK 9   Art and Politics on the Periclean Acropolis  
Oct. 29   Fred Kleiner (History of Art & Architecture)  

WEEK 10   Sophocles’ Ajax  
Nov. 5   Steve Esposito (Classical Studies)  

WEEK 11   Euripides’ Hecuba  
Nov. 12   Kyna Hamill (Core)  

WEEK 12   Introduction to Plato’s Republic  
Nov. 19   David Roochnik (Philosophy)  

WEEK 13   The Beautiful City (Kallipolis) and its purpose in Republic Bks 2-5  
Nov. 26   Greg Fried (Suffolk University, Philosophy)  

WEEK 14   Plato’s Divided Line and Cave Allegory in Republic Bks 6-7  
Dec. 3   David Roochnik (Philosophy)  

WEEK 15   A Debate on Democracy  
Dec. 10   Jay Samons, Brendan McConville (History), David Roochnik, and Steve Esposito  

DATE OF FINAL EXAM  
To 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 the course webpage.