CAS CC 101: ANCIENT WORLDS

FALL SEMESTER, 2017

LECTURES  Tues 9:30-10:45 AM in the Hariri Building (Questrom), Rm 105, 595 Comm Ave

COORDINATOR  Stephen Esposito. Department of Classics, 745 Comm Ave, Room 410

SEMINARS  B1 TR 11:00am - 12:15pm in MCS B-19 with Brian Walsh bgwalsh@bu.edu
B2 TR 11:00am - 12:15pm in STH 625 with Rebecca Walsh srmartin@bu.edu
B3 TR 11:00am - 12:15pm in CAS 114-A with Jennifer Row jrow@bu.edu
B4 TR 12:30pm - 1:45pm in STH 625 with Allen Speight casp8@bu.edu
B5 TR 12:30pm - 1:45pm in CAS 114-A with Maria Gapotchenko daisym@bu.edu
B6 TR 2:00pm - 3:15pm in STH 625 with Stephen Esposito espo@bu.edu
B7 TR 2:00pm - 3:15pm in CAS 114-A with Marie McDonough msmcd@bu.edu
B8 TR 3:30pm - 4:45pm in CAS 114-A with Jason Prentice prentice@bu.edu
B9 TR 8:00am - 9:15am in CAS 114-B with Stephanie Nelson nelson@bu.edu
C2 MWF 9:05am - 9:55am in CAS 114-A with Katherine Klancer chudak@bu.edu
C3 MWF 10:10am - 11:00am in CAS 114-B with Kyna Hamill kyna@bu.edu
C4 MWF 11:15am - 12:05pm in CAS 114-B with Clifford Backman cbbackman@bu.edu
C5 MWF 12:20pm - 1:10pm in CAS 119 with Catherine Klancer chudak@bu.edu
C6 MWF 1:25pm - 2:15pm in CAS 114-B with Gabrielle Sims gsims@bu.edu
C7 MWF 2:30pm - 3:20pm in CAS 114-B with Gabrielle Sims gsims@bu.edu
D1 MW 2:30pm - 3:45pm in KCB 103 with James Johnson jhj@bu.edu

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 foundational components of the Western tradition: the culture of the ancient Greeks, and the world of the Hebrew Scriptures. We also consider ancient Mesopotamia, to which the Hebrews and Greeks were deeply indebted.

Other topics that will be considered this semester include heroism and power; friendship; death and grief; sexuality and love; the city, and the journey home. Key issues include the experience of 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%
- final exam, 25%
- seminar papers, 50%
- seminar attendance and participation, 15%

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.

-- from Little Gidding, T. S. Eliot
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.

Course Goals for Writing. Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University Writing Program. While each seminar instructor determines the specific writing assignments, all CC 101 classes aim to help students develop the abilities to do the following:

- use writing to develop and deepen thinking
- analyze complex texts and works of art
- produce an insightful, well-argued paper discussing these works
- write clear and correct prose that also achieves a certain grace of style

Writing Assignments. Each seminar will require approximately 18 pages of writing over the course of the semester. All seminars will require at least one close reading or thesis-argument paper about a single work (4-5 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 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Writing Fellows. Each CC 101 seminar has been assigned a graduate student Writing Fellow who is available to work with you one on one to support you at any stage of the writing process and help you work toward any and all of the course goals listed above. You are required meet with your seminar’s WF at least once in the first few weeks of the term. You can make an appointment with your WF according to the instructions on your seminar syllabus. Additional writing resources can be accessed via http://bu.edu/core/writing.

Learning and testing accommodation. Boston University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, you should contact your seminar leader and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at access@bu.edu and 617-353-3658. Letters of accommodations should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course. Learn more at http://www.bu.edu/disability/policies-procedures.

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.

Please note that your instructor may create an additional Blackboard course site for the members of your discussion seminar.

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. Students with questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people’s work in an academic setting should speak with their instructor or consult the Academic Conduct Code online at http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct.

Required textbooks are available at the BU Bookstore, and can also be borrowed from the Core office:

1. *Gilgamesh* trans. David Ferry 9780374523831
5. *Odysseus at Troy* ed. Stephen Esposito 9781585103966
Fall 2017 Lecture & Exam Schedule

Week 1  
Gilgamesh  
Sept. 5  
Brian Jorgensen, emeritus Director of the Core Curriculum  
EVENT  
Tue. Sept. 5: Welcome Back Reception for Core students and alumni: 4–5 PM, CAS 119  
EVENT  
Sat. Sept. 9: Adopt-a-Book & Breakfast for Core students and alumni: 10 AM – noon, CAS 119

Week 2  
The Bible (I): Introduction to the Hebrew Bible  
Sept. 12  
Rabbi Nehemia Polen, Hebrew College

Week 3  
The Bible (II): The Book of Genesis  
Sept. 19  
Kathe Darr, School of Theology  
EVENT  
Sun. Sept. 24: Annual All-Core BBQ: 2–4 PM, BU Beach

Week 4  
The Bible (III): The Book of Exodus  
Sept. 26  
Jonathan Klawans, Department of Religion

Week 5  
Homer’s Odyssey (I): Introduction to Greek Culture, and Homer’s Odyssey Books 1-8  
Oct. 3  
Stephanie Nelson, Director of Core; Department of Classical Studies  
EXAM  
Midterm Exam: 50 minutes, in discussion seminars.

Week 6  
Homer’s Odyssey (III): Penelope and Female Heroism in the Odyssey  
Oct. 17  
Steve Esposito, Coordinator of CC 101; Department of Classical Studies

Week 7  
Historical Transition: Art, Politics and Imperialism in the Age of Pericles  
Oct. 24  
Fred Kleiner, Department of the History of Art & Architecture; Department of Archaeology

Week 8  
Greek Tragedy (I): The Importance of ‘Tragic Heroes’ like Ajax  
Oct. 31  
Steve Esposito

Week 9  
Historical Transition: Political Change from Homeric to Classical Greece  
Nov. 7  
L. J. Samons, Department of Classical Studies

Week 10  
Greek Tragedy (II): Witnessing Euripides’ Hecuba  
Nov. 14  
Kyna Hamill, Core Curriculum

Week 11  
Plato’s Republic (I): An Introduction to Plato’s Republic  
Nov. 21  
Keith Whitaker, Wise Counsel Research

Week 12  
No Class: Thanksgiving Break

Week 13  
Plato’s Republic (II): The City and Soul in Plato’s Republic  
Nov. 28  
Greg Fried, Suffolk University

Week 14  
Plato’s Republic (III): Plato’s Divided Line and the Allegory of the Cave  
Dec. 5  
Allen Speight, Department of Philosophy

Week 15  
Plato’s Republic (IV): Plato’s Critique of Democracy and of Poets  
Dec. 12  
Samons & Esposito

Dec. 13-15  
study period

EXAM  
Final Exam: all sections on Dec. 19