CC 101: The Ancient World

Core Instructors
James Devlin (Philosophy)  Stephen Scully (Classical Studies)
Brian Jorgensen (Classical Studies)  Judith Swanson (Political Science)
Aryeh Motzkin (Philosophy)  William Wians (Philosophy)

Course Description The backbone of the CLA’s Integrated Core Curriculum is the Humanities Core Course. The Humanities Core is a four-semester sequence of courses, each organized around a close study of some of the most famous and 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 Core will acquaint students with the two seminal strands of the Western tradition: the Hebrew Scriptures, and the world of the ancient Greeks.

Each of the four courses in the Humanities Core sequence will consist of two hour-long lectures per week plus two hours of seminar with an individual instructor. Students must register for both the lectures and a seminar to be enrolled in the Core.

*Lectures will provide students with a context for the detailed textual studies conducted in their seminars, and will feature some of Boston University’s leading experts and teachers. All lectures will be delivered in Stone B-50 from 3:30 to 4:30. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken using an assigned seat plan about five minutes after the start of each lecture.

*The seminars will be small, to allow for the intensive study of material and the lively interchange of ideas. Seminar texts will be read following schedules set by individual instructors.

Books The books you should purchase and read are available at the BU Bookstore.

Seminar texts:
- The Holy Bible, revised Standard edition (NAL)
- Homer: The Odyssey (Doubleday)
- Sophocles: Sophocles I (Chicago)
- Bloom: The Republic of Plato (Basic Books)
- Plato: The Republic, and Other Works (Anchor)

Lecture texts:
- Shanks: Ancient Israel (Prentice Hall)
- Finley: World of Odysseus (Viking/Penguin)
- Finley: The Ancient Greeks (Viking/Penguin)

Students may also be asked to purchase additional materials from time to time.

Grading Final grades will be determined by the students’ seminar instructor 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, broken down in the following proportions:

Mid-term exam 10%  |  Seminar papers 50%
Final exam 15%  |  Seminar participation 25%

*Exams will cover materials in the lectures and seminar readings. Their format will be largely objective. The final exam will be cumulative. Paper topics will be assigned and graded by the seminar instructors.
Lecture Schedule
CC 101: The Ancient World
Stone B-50, 3:30-4:30

Lecture 1 (Thur, 31 Aug):
Introduction to the Humanities Core Curriculum
William Wians, Philosophy Department and Coordinator, Humanities Core

Lecture 2 (Tues, 5 Sep):
Origins of Civilization in the Near East
Prof. Paul Zimansky, Archaeology Department
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 3 (Thur, 7 Sep):
Origins of Literacy and the Alphabet
Prof. Zimansky
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 4 (Tues, 12 Sep):
Patriarchal Age and Exodus
Prof. James Purvis, Religion Department
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 1

Lecture 5 (Thur, 14 Sep):
Who Wrote the Bible?
Prof. Purvis
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 2

Lecture 6 (Tues, 19 Sep):
Kingship
Prof. Aryeh Motzkin, Philosophy Department and the Humanities Core
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 3

Lecture 7 (Thur, 21 Sep):
Aspects of Biblical Narrative
Reuven Firestone, Modern Foreign Languages
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 4

Lecture 8 (Tues, 26 Sep):
Prophecy
Prof. Motzkin
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 5

Lecture 9 (Thur, 28 Sep):
Purvis, Fall of Israel and Birth of Judaism
Prof. Purvis
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 6 and 8

Lecture 10 (Tues, 3 Oct):
From Mycenae to Homer
Prof. Stephen Scully, Classical Studies Department and the Humanities Core
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch I and II; World of Odysseus Ch I

Lecture 11 (Thur, 5 Oct):
The Greek Gods
Prof. Scully
—Readings: World of Odysseus Ch II and V

Lecture 12 (Tues, 10 Oct):
Art in the Archaic Age
Prof. Greg Leftwich, Art History Department
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 13 (Thur, 12 Oct):
Origins of Science and Technology
Prof. Wians
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 14 (Tues, 17 Oct):
Women in Greek Society
Prof. Emily Hanawalt, School of Theology
—Readings: World of Odysseus Ch III and IV
Lecture 15 (Thur., 19 Oct):
The Greek Polis
Prof. Rufus Fears, Classical Studies Department
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch III

Lecture 16 (Tues., 24 Oct):
Tragedy
Prof. Stephen Esposito, Classical Studies Department
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch V

Lecture 17 (Thur., 26 Oct):
Golden Age of Athens
Prof. Meyer Reinhold, Classical Studies Department
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch IV

Lecture 18 (Tues., 31 Oct):
MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Lecture 19 (Thur., 2 Nov):
Classical Art and the Acropolis
Prof. Leftwich
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch VII

Lecture 20 (Tues., 7 Nov):
Decline of Athens
Prof. Reinhold
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 21 (Thur., 9 Nov):
Philosophy Before Socrates
Prof. Wians
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch VI

Lecture 22 (Tues. 14 Nov):
The Problem of Socrates
Prof. Wians

Lecture 23 (Thur., 16 Nov):
Plato and the Sophists
Prof. Motzkin

Lecture 24 (Tues., 21 Nov):
Plato and the Poets
Prof. Motzkin

Lecture 25 (Tues., 28 Nov):
Plato on Regimes
Prof. Judith Swanson, Political Science Department and the Humanities Core

Lecture 26 (Thur., 30 Nov):
The Divided Line
Prof. James Devlin, Philosophy Department and the Humanities Core

Lecture 27 (Tues., 5 Dec):
Plato on Sex, Love, and Desire
Prof. Brian Jorgensen, Classical Studies Department and the Humanities Core

Lecture 28 (Thur., 7 Dec):
The Legacy of Greece
Prof. Reinhold
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch VII

Final Examination: Tuesday, 19 December, 9-11am in Stone B-50.