CC 101: The Ancient World

Fall, 1990 Humanities Core Curriculum

Core Professors
James Devlin (Philosophy)          Eugene Green (English)
Dennis Costa (Modern Foreign Languages)     Harry Thomas (English)
Brian Jorgensen (English)             James Johnson (History)
Murray McClellan (Archaeology)         William Wians (Philosophy)

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. 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 experiences.

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

Grading: Final grades will be determined by the student’s 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 valued in the following proportions:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Papers</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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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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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Class Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
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Lecture and Exam Schedule  
CC 101: The Ancient World  
Stone B-50, 3:30-5:00

Tuesday, 9/4/90:  
(1) Gilgamesh: Two-thirds god.  
Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets 1-6.  
Lecture: James Devlin, Introduction

Thursday, 9/6/90:  
(2) Gilgamesh: One-third mortal.  
Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets 7-11.  
Lecture: Herbert Mason, Gilgamesh: The Story and Approaches to the Story

Tuesday, 9/11/90:  
(3) Genesis: Creation and Flood.  
Reading: Genesis, chapters 1-11.  
Lecture: Curtis Runnels, Nature and City in Ancient Life

Thursday, 9/13/90:  
(4) Genesis: Patriarchs.  
Reading: Genesis, chapters 12-35.  
Lecture: James Purvis, Patriarchal Age and Exodus

Tuesday, 9/18/90:  
(5) Samuel: Samuel and Saul.  
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15.  
Lecture: James Purvis, Who Wrote the Bible?

Thursday, 9/20/90:  
(6) Samuel: David, Jonathan, Saul.  
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 15-31.  
Lecture: James Devlin, Why the Bible is Not Literature
Tuesday, 9/25/90:  

(7) **Samuel**: *David the young king*  
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-12.  

*Lecture:* Aryeh Motzkin, *Kingship and Prophecy*

Thursday, 9/27/90:  

(8) **Samuel**: *David the old king.*  
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 12-24; 1 Kings, 1-2.  

*Lecture:* James Devlin, *The Evolution of God*

Monday, 10/1/90, 4:00 pm, Stone B-50:  

(9) **Job**: *Job and his comforters.*  
Reading: Job, chapters 1-21.  

*Lecture:* Elie Wiesel, *on the Book of Job*

Tuesday, 10/2/90:  

No class.

Thursday, 10/4/90:  

(10) **Job**: *Job and God.*  
Reading: Job, chapters 22-42.  

*Lecture:* Murray McClellan, *From Mycenae to Homer*

Tuesday, 10/9/90:  

Monday schedule; no lecture.  
Reading: *Odyssey*, Books 1-6.

Thursday, 10/11/90:  

(11) **Homer**: *The Odyssey*: Odysseus and the journey home.  
Reading: *Odyssey*, Books 7-12.  

*Lecture:* Stephen Salamone, *The Greek Gods*
Tuesday, 10/16/90:
(12) Homer: The Odyssey: Ithaka.
Lecture: Rebecca Mersereau, Art in the Archaic Age

Thursday, 10/18/90:
(13) Homer: The Odyssey: Odysseus, Penelope, and the death of the suitors.
Lecture: William Wians, Odysseus the Harper

Tuesday, 10/23/90:
(14) Aeschylus: Oresteia.
Reading: Oresteia.
Lecture: James Devlin, on the Greek polis

Thursday, 10/25/90:
(15) Aeschylus: Oresteia.
Reading: Oresteia.
Lecture: Harry Thomas, on The Oresteia

Tuesday, 10/30/90:
(16) Aeschylus: Oresteia.
Reading: Oresteia.
Lecture: Stephen Esposito, Athenian Tragedy and the Heroic Temper

Thursday, 11/1/90:
(17) Aeschylus: Oresteia.
Reading: Oresteia.
Lecture: Meyer Reinhold, The Golden Age of Athens
Tuesday, 11/6/90:
(18) Aristophanes: The Clouds.
Reading: The Clouds.

MIDTERM EXAM

Thursday, 11/8/90:
(19) Aristophanes: The Clouds
Reading: The Clouds.

Lecture: Stephen Salamone, Socrates and The Clouds

Tuesday, 11/13/90:
(20) Plato: The Republic.
Reading: Republic, Book 1.

Lecture: James Devlin, on The Republic

Thursday, 11/15/90:
(21) Plato: The Republic.
Reading: Republic, Books 2-3.

Lecture: Murray McClellan, Classical Art and the Acropolis

Tuesday, 11/20/90:
(22) Plato: The Republic.
Reading: Republic, Book 4.

Lecture: Aryeh Motzkin, Plato, The Poets, The Sophists

Thursday, 11/22/90:
Holiday. No class.
Tuesday, 11/27/90:


Lecture: William Wiles, *The Origins of Greek Science*

Thursday, 11/29/90:


Lecture: James Devlin, *The Divided Line*

Tuesday, 12/4/90:


Lecture: Eugene Green, *The Good Life and Greek Cities*

Thursday, 12/6/90:


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

Tuesday, 12/11/90:


Lecture: James Devlin, *on the Myth of Er*

Thursday, 12/20/90, 12:30 pm. Stone B-50:

*FINAL EXAM*
CC-101 Core Humanities I Reading List
Fall 1990

Gilgamesh, tr. Maureen Gallery Kovacs
(Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1985)
ISBN 0-8047-1711-7

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

Aeschylus, The Oresteia, tr. Robert Fagles
(New York: Penguin, 1975)
ISBN 0-14-044333-9

Aristophanes, The Clouds, tr. William Arrowsmith
ISBN 0-452-00717-8

Plato, The Republic, tr. Allan Bloom
(New York: Basic Books, 1968)