CC 101: The Ancient World

Syllabus

Fall 1993
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Tsai Center

Core Professors

Professor James Devlin (Philosophy)  Professor Eugene Green (English)
Professor James Johnson (History)  Professor Stephen Scully (Classics)
Professor Brian Jorgensen (English)  Professor Aryeh Motzkin (Philosophy)
Professor Judith Swanson (Political Science)  Professor Steven Salamone (Core)
Professor Gerald Fitzgerald (English)  Professor Stephen Esposito (Classics)
Professor George Hoffmann (Modern Languages)  Professor John Kidd (English)

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. We shall also consider the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and other peoples to whom the Hebrews and Greeks are indebted. 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 experience.

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

Grading: Final grades will be determined by your seminar professor 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 approximately the following proportions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Papers</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLA CC101</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Core Humanities I</td>
<td>Dis Johnson</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>1:00-2:00P</td>
<td>CLA 420</td>
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<td>Dis Swanson</td>
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<td>Dis Devlin</td>
<td>W</td>
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<td>Dis Scully</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10:00-11:00P</td>
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<td>Dis Fitzgerald</td>
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<td>Dis Esposito</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLA CC101</td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Core Humanities</td>
<td>Dis Kidd</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>12:30-2:00</td>
<td>CLA 416</td>
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Lecture and Exam Schedule

CC 101: The Ancient World
Tsai Center, TR 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 9/7/93: (1) *Gilgamesh*: Two-thirds god.
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 1-6

*Lecture: Professor Devlin: Introduction to the Core*

Thursday, 9/9/93: (2) *Gilgamesh*: One-third mortal.
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 7-11

*Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Who is Gilgamesh?*

Tuesday, 9/14/93: (3) *Genesis: Creation, Fall, and Flood*
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 1-11

*Lecture: Professor Motzkin on Genesis*

Thursday, 9/16/93: (4) *Genesis: Patriarchs*
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 12-35

*Lecture: Professor Zimansky: Nature and City in Ancient Life*

Tuesday, 9/21/93: LAW AUDITORIUM (5) *Samuel: The Coming of Kingship*
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15

*Lecture: Professor Purvis: The Emergence of Monarchy in Israel*

Thursday, 9/23/93: (6) *Samuel: David, Jonathan, Saul*
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 15-31

*Lecture: Professor Devlin: David and Saul*

Tuesday, 9/28/93: (7) *Samuel: David the young king*
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-12

*Lecture: Professor Purvis: Who Wrote the Bible?*
Thursday, 9/30/93:

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

*Lecture: Professor Motzkin: Kingship and Prophecy*

Tuesday, 10/5/93:

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

*Lecture: Professor Wiesel on the Book of Job*

Thursday, 10/7/93:

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

*Lecture: Professor Devlin on Job and God*

Tuesday, 10/12/93:

MONDAY SCHEDULE. NO LECTURE.

Thursday, 10/14/93:

(11) *Homer, The Odyssey: Athena and Telemakhos*
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 1-6

*Lecture: Professor McClellan: The Mycenaean Age*

Tuesday, 10/19/93:

(13) *Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus and the journey home*
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 7-12

*Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Gods*

Thursday, 10/21/93:

(14) *Homer, The Odyssey: At Eumaios’ hut*
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 13-18

*Lecture: Professor Wians: Odysseus the Harper*
Tuesday, 10/26/93:  
(15) Homer, *The Odyssey*: Odysseus, Penelope, and the death of the suitors  
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 19-24

*Lecture: Professor Esposito on The Odyssey*

Thursday, 10/28/93:  
(16) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

*Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Polis*

Tuesday, 11/2/93:  
(17) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers*

*Lecture: Professor Johnson on the emergence of tragedy*

Thursday, 11/4/93:  
(18) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Eumenides*

*Lecture: Professor Devlin on The Oresteia*

Tuesday, 11/9/93:  
(19) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*

*Lecture: Professor McClellan on the Athenian Acropolis*

Thursday, 11/11/93:  
MIDTERM EXAM  
Reading: Aristophanes, *The Clouds*

Tuesday, 11/16/93:  
(20) Aristophanes, *The Clouds*  
Reading: Aristophanes, *The Clouds*

*Lecture: Professor Reinhold: The Golden Age of Athens*

Jeff Henderson
Thursday, 11/18/93:  (21) Aristophanes, *The Clouds*  
Reading: Aristophanes, *The Clouds*

Lecture: Professor Henderson on Aristophanes

Devlin

Tuesday, 11/23/93:  (22) Plato, *The Republic* What is Justice?  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Book 1

Lecture: Professor Devlin on Book 1 of *The Republic*

Motzkin

Thursday, 11/25/93:  NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING VACATION

Tuesday, 11/30/93:  (23) Plato, *The Republic* A City in Speech  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 2-3

Lecture: Professor Motzkin: Plato, the Poets, and the Sophists

Reinhold

Thursday, 12/2/93:  (24) Plato, *The Republic* Perfecting the City  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 4-5

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Plato on Love, Sex, and Desire

Tuesday, 12/7/93:  (25) Plato, *The Republic* The Line and the Cave  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 6-7

Lecture: Professor Devlin on Plato’s Divided Line

Thursday, 12/9/93:  (26) Plato, *The Republic* O Fair Democracy  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 8-9

Lecture: Professor Swanson on Plato’s Regimes

Tuesday, 12/14/93:  (27) Plato: *The Republic* Saving the Myth  
Reading: *The Republic*, Book 10

Lecture: Professor Devlin: Platonic Virtue and the Myth of Er

Thursday, 12/16/93:  NO CLASS. STUDY PERIOD.

Saturday, 12/18/92:  FINAL EXAM, 9:00 a.m.
CC 101 Core Humanities I Reading List

Fall 1992

Gilgamesh, tr. David Ferry
(New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1992)
ISBN: 0-374-16227-1

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: 0-14-04333-9

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

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

Strunk and White, The Elements of Style
(New York: Macmillan, 1979)
ISBN: 0-02-418200-1