CC 101: The Ancient World

Syllabus, Fall 1995

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

Faculty:

Prof. James Devlin (Philosophy)  
Prof. James Johnson (History)  
Prof. Brian Jorgensen (English)  
Prof. Judith Swanson (Political Science)  
Prof. George Hoffmann (Modern Languages)  
Prof. Allen Speight (Philosophy)  
Prof. Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)  
Prof. Debra San (Literature)  
Prof. Angelo Codevilla (International Relations)  
Prof. Stephanie Nelson (Core)  
Prof. Stephen Scully (Classics)  
Prof. David Roochnik (Philosophy)  
Prof. Philip Freeman (Core)  
Prof. Marc Joseph (Core)  
Prof. Lisbeth Haakonsen (Philos.)  
Prof. Paul Guay (Compar. Studies)  
Prof. Peter Wood (Anthropology)

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Seminar Papers</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>15%</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.
“Life is a series of surprises. We do not guess today the mood, the pleasure, the power of tomorrow, when we are building up our being. Of lower states, of acts of routine and sense, we can tell somewhat, but the total growths and universal movements of the soul are incalculable. I can know that truth is divine and helpful; but how it shall help me I can have no guess, for so to be is the sole inlet of so to know.” --Ralph Waldo Emerson
CC 101 Lecture and Exam Schedule

Tuesday, 9/5/95: (1) Gilgamesh: Two-thirds god
Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets 1-6
Lecture: Professor Devlin: Introduction to the Core

Thursday, 9/7/95: (2) Gilgamesh: One-third mortal
Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets 7-11
Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Who is Gilgamesh?

Tuesday, 9/12/95: (3) Genesis: Creation, Fall, and Flood
Reading: Genesis, chapters 1-11
Lecture: Professor Zimansky: Nature and City in Ancient Life

Thursday, 9/14/95: (4) Genesis: The Patriarchs
Reading: Genesis, chapters 12-35
Lecture: Professor Fredriksen on Genesis

Wednesday, 9/20/95, 11:00 a.m., Tsai Center: (5) Samuel: The Coming of Kingship
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15
Lecture: Professor Wiesel on the Patriarchs

Thursday, 9/21/95: (6) Samuel: David, Jonathan, Saul
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 15-31
Lecture: Professor Devlin: David and Saul

Tuesday, 9/26/95: (7) Samuel: David the young king
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-12
Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture

Thursday, 9/28/95, Law Auditorium: (8) Samuel: David the old king
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 12-24; 1 Kings, chapters 1-2
Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Kingship and Prophecy

Tuesday, 10/3/95: (9) Job
Reading: Job, chapters 1-42
Lecture: Professors Devlin and Jorgensen on Job

Thursday, 10/5/95: (10) Homer, The Odyssey: Athena and Telemakhos
Reading: Odyssey, books 1-6
Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Gods

Tuesday, 10/10/95: No lecture. Monday schedule.
Thursday, 10/12/95: (11) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus and the journey home
Reading: Odyssey, books 7-12
Lecture: Professor McConnell on The Odyssey

Tuesday, 10/17/95: (12) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus, Penelope, and the death of the suitors
Reading: Odyssey, books 13-24
Lecture: Professor Lapatin: The Mycenaean Age

Thursday, 10/19/95: MIDTERM EXAM

Tuesday, 10/24/95: (13) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, Agamemnon
Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Polis

Thursday, 10/26/95: (14) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, The Libation Bearers
Lecture: Professor Johnson on the emergence of tragedy

Tuesday, 10/31/95: (15) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, The Eumenides
Lecture: Professor Devlin on The Oresteia

Thursday, 11/2/95, Law Auditorium: (16) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture

Tuesday, 11/7/95: (17) Aristophanes, The Clouds
Reading: Aristophanes, The Clouds
Lecture: Professor Henderson on Aristophanes

Thursday, 11/9/95: (18) Aristophanes, The Clouds
Reading: Aristophanes, The Clouds
Lecture: Professor McClellan on the Athenian Acropolis

Tuesday, 11/14/95: (19) Plato, The Republic: What is Justice?
Reading: Plato, Republic, Book 1
Lecture: Professor Devlin on Book 1 of The Republic

Thursday, 11/16/95: (20) Plato, The Republic: A City in Speech
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 2-3
Lecture: Professor Roochnik: Plato, the Poets, and the Sophists

Tuesday, 11/21/95: (21) Plato, The Republic: Perfecting the City
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 4-5
Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Plato on Love, Sex, and Desire
Thursday, 11/23/95: **NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING VACATION**

Tuesday, 11/28/95: (22) *Plato, The Republic: The Line and the Cave*
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 6-7
*Lecture: Professor Devlin on Plato’s Divided Line*

Thursday, 11/30/95: (23) *Plato, The Republic: O Fair Democracy*
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 6-7
*Professors Roochnik, Patt, Mohr, and Wildman: Integrating Forum*

Tuesday, 12/5/95: (24) *Plato: The Republic: O Fair Democracy*
Reading: The Republic, Books 8-9
*Lecture: Professor Swanson on Plato’s Regimes*

Thursday 12/7/95: (25) *Plato: The Republic*
Reading: The Republic, Books 8-9
*Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: On Justice*

Tuesday 12/12/95: (26) *Plato: The Republic: Saving the Myth*
Reading: The Republic, Book 10
*Lecture: Professor Devlin: Platonic Virtue and the Myth of Er*

Thursday, 12/14/95: **NO CLASS. STUDY PERIOD.**

Saturday, 12/16/95: **FINAL EXAM, 9:00 a.m.**