CC 101: The Ancient World

Syllabus

Fall 1996
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Tsai Center

Core Professors

Professor James Devlin (Philosophy)  Professor Stephanie Nelson (Core)
Professor James Johnson (History)  Professor Stephen Scully (Classics)
Professor Brian Jorgensen (English)  Professor David Rochnik (Philosophy)
Professor Gregory Fried (Core)  Professor Marc Joseph (Core)
Professor Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)  Professor Lisbeth Haakonssen (Philosophy)
Professor Mary Ann McGrail (University Profs)  Professor Kenneth Haynes (Core)
Professor Kevin Stoehr (Philosophy)  Professor Abigail Gillman (Modern Languages)
Professor Alice Behnegar (Core)  Professor Brian Saunders (Core)
Professor John Newton (Core)

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:

Midterm exam 10%  Seminar Papers  50%
Final exam  25%  Seminar participation 15%
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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<th>Course Code</th>
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“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
Lecture and Exam Schedule

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

Tuesday, 9/3/96: (1) *Gilgamesh*: Two-thirds god
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 1-6

Lecture: Professor Devlin: Introduction to the Core

Thursday, 9/5/96: (2) *Gilgamesh*: One-third mortal
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 7-11

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: On *Gilgamesh*

Tuesday, 9/10/96: (3) *Genesis*: Creation, Fall, and Flood
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 1-11

Lecture: Professor Zimansky: City and Countryside in Ancient Mesopotamia

Thursday, 9/12/96: (4) *Genesis*: The Patriarchs
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 12-35

Lecture: Professor Zank: On the Book of Genesis

Tuesday, 9/17/96: (5) *Samuel*: The Coming of Kingship
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15

Lecture: Professor Purvis: The Emergence of Monarchy in Israel

Thursday, 9/19/96: (6) *Samuel*: David, Jonathan, Saul
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 15-31

Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture

Tuesday, 9/24/96: (7) *Samuel*: David the young king
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-12

Lecture: Professor Devlin: David and Saul
Thursday, 9/26/96:  (8) *Samuel*: *David the old king*  
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 12-24; 1 Kings, chapters 1-2  
*Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Kingship and Prophecy*

Monday, 9/30/96:  (9) *Job*  
Reading: Job, chapters 1-42  
*Lecture: Professor Wiesel: On the Book of Job*

Thursday, 10/3/96:  (10) *Job*  
Reading: Job, chapters 1-42  
*Lecture: Professors Devlin and Jorgensen: On the Book of Job*

Tuesday, 10/8/96:  (11) *Homer, The Odyssey*: *Odysseus and the journey home*  
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 1-12  
*Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Gods*

Thursday, 10/10/96:  (12) *Homer, The Odyssey*: *Odysseus, Penelope, and the death of the suitors*  
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 13-24  
*Lecture: Professor McGrail on The Odyssey*

Tuesday, 10/15/96:  **No lecture. Monday schedule.**

Thursday, 10/17/96:  **MIDTERM EXAM**

Tuesday, 10/22/96:  (13) *Aeschylus, The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*  
*Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Polis*
Thursday, 10/24/96:  (14) *Aeschylus, The Oresteia*
Reading: Aeschylus, The Libation Bearers

*Lecture: Professor Johnson on the emergence of tragedy*

Tuesday, 10/29/96:    (15) *Aeschylus, The Oresteia*
Reading: Aeschylus, The Eumenides

*Lecture: Professor Nelson on The Oresteia*

Thursday, 10/31/96
Law Auditorium:    (16) *Aeschylus, The Oresteia*
Reading: Aeschylus, The Oresteia

*Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture*

Tuesday, 11/5/96:    (17) *Aristophanes, The Clouds*
Reading: Aristophanes, The Clouds

*Lecture: Professor Henderson on Aristophanes*

Thursday, 11/7/96:    (18) *Aristophanes, The Clouds*
Reading: Aristophanes, The Clouds

*Lecture: Professor McClellan on the Athenian Acropolis*

Tuesday, 11/12/96:    (19) *Plato, The Republic: What is Justice?*
Reading: Plato, Republic, Book 1

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

Thursday, 11/14/96:    (20) *Plato, The Republic: A City in Speech*
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 2-3

*Lecture: Professor Roochnik: Plato, the Poets, and the Sophists*

Tuesday, 11/19/96:    (21) Plato, The Republic: Perfecting the City
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 4-5
Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Plato on Love, Sex, and Desire

Thursday, 11/21/96: (22) Plato, The Republic: The Line and the Cave
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 6-7

Lecture: Professor Devlin on Plato’s Divided Line

Tuesday, 11/26/96: (23) Plato, The Republic: O Fair Democracy
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 6-7

Professors Roochnik, Patt, Mohr, and Wildman: Integrating Forum

Thursday, 11/28/96: NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING VACATION

Tuesday, 12/3/96: (24) Plato, The Republic: O Fair Democracy
Reading: The Republic, Books 8-9

Lecture: Professor Swanson on Plato’s Regimes

Thursday 12/5/96: (25) Plato: The Republic:
Reading: The Republic, Books 8-9

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: On Justice

Tuesday 12/10/96: (26) Plato, The Republic: Saving the Myth
Reading: The Republic, Book 10

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

Thursday, 12/12/96: NO CLASS. STUDY PERIOD.

Tuesday, 12/17/96: FINAL EXAM, 9:00 a.m.