CC 101: The Ancient World

Syllabus

Fall 1998
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Tsai Center

Core Professors

Professor James Devlin (Philosophy)  Professor Stephanie Nelson (Core)
Professor Stephen Esposito (Classics)  Professor Allen Speight (Philosophy)
Professor Brian Jorgensen (English)  Professor David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Professor Gregory Fried (Core)  Professor Marc Joseph (Core)
Professor Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)  Professor Linda Wells (Humanities)
Professor John Newton (English)  Professor Michael Prince (English)
Professor Murray McClellan (Archaeology)  Professor Mark Pedreira (Core)
Professor Matthew Ostrow (Core)  Professor Mark Kremer (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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<tr>
<th>CAS CC101</th>
<th>A1</th>
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<th>Lec</th>
<th>Devlin</th>
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<th>9:30-11:00A TSAI</th>
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<tr>
<td>CAS CC101</td>
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<td>9:30-11:00A TSAI</td>
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| CAS CC101 | B1  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Speight | MWF  | 1:00-2:00P CAS B06A |
| CAS CC101 | B2  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Jorgensen | MWF | 11:00-12:00P CAS B06A |
| CAS CC101 | B3  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Devlin   | M    | 3:00-6:00P CAS 323B |
| CAS CC101 | B4  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Nelson  | TR   | 12:30-2:00P CAS B06A |
| CAS CC101 | B5  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Fried   | TR   | 2:00-3:30P CAS B14 |
| CAS CC101 | B6  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Ostrow  | TR   | 2:00-3:30P CAS B25B |
| CAS CC101 | B8  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Joseph  | MWF  | 4:00-5:00P CAS 312 |
| CAS CC101 | B9  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Esposito | MWF | 10:00-11:00A CAS 233 |

| CAS CC101 | C1  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Roochnik | MWF | 12:00-1:00P CAS 315 |
| CAS CC101 | C2  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Newton   | TR   | 11:00-12:30P CAS 229 |
| CAS CC101 | C3  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Fried    | TR   | 12:30-2:00P CAS B06B |
| CAS CC101 | C4  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Newton   | TR   | 12:30-2:00P CAS 402 |
| CAS CC101 | C5  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Joseph   | MWF  | 2:00-3:00P CAS 235 |
| CAS CC101 | C7  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Pedreira | TR   | 12:30-2:00P CAS 428 |
| CAS CC101 | C8  | Core Humanities I | Dis | McClellan | TR | 11:00-12:30P CAS 221 |
| CAS CC101 | C9  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Nelson   | W    | 3:00-6:00P CAS 218 |
| CAS CC101 | D1  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Kremer   | TR   | 2:00-3:30P CAS 323A |
| CAS CC101 | D2  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Prince   | MWF  | 1:00-2:00P CAS 220 |
| CAS CC101 | D4  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Richardson | MWF | 9:00-10:00A CAS 325 |
| CAS CC101 | D5  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Wells    | MWF  | 3:00-4:00P CAS 204A |

| CAS CC101 | HP  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Devlin | TR   | 9:30-11:00P TSAI |
| CAS CC101 | HS  | Core Humanities I | Dis | Devlin | F    | 3:00-5:00P CAS 522 |

"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

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.  --T. S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"
Lecture and Exam Schedule

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

Thursday, 9/3/98: (1) *Gilgamesh*: Two-thirds god
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 1-6

Lecture: Professor Devlin: *Introduction to the Core*

Tuesday, 9/8/98: (2) *Gilgamesh*: One-third mortal
Reading: *Gilgamesh*, tablets 7-11

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: *Who Is Gilgamesh?*

Thursday, 9/10/98: (3) *Genesis*: Creation, Fall, and Flood
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 1-11

Lecture: Professor Zimansky: *The Life and Death of Cities in Ancient Mesopotamia*

Tuesday, 9/15/98: (4) *Genesis*: The Patriarchs
Reading: *Genesis*, chapters 12-35

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: *Introduction to the Book of Genesis*

Thursday, 9/17/98: (5) *Samuel*: The Coming of Kingship
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15

Lecture: Professor Nelson: *Exodus and Establishment*

Tuesday, 9/22/98: (6) *Samuel*: David, Jonathan, Saul
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 16-31

Lecture: Professor Devlin: *David and Saul*
Thursday, 9/24/98:  (7) Samuel: David the young king  
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-12

Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture

Tuesday, 9/29/98:  (8) Samuel: David the old king  
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 12-24; 1 Kings, chapters 1-2

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Prophet and King: Who Shall Rule?

Thursday, 10/1/98:  (9) Job  
10:00 a.m. Reading: Job, chapters 1-28

Lecture: Professor Wiesel on the Book of Job

Tuesday, 10/6/98:  (11) Job  
Reading: Job, chapters 28-42

Lecture: Professors Devlin and Jorgensen on the Book of Job

Thursday, 10/8/98:  (12) Homer, The Odyssey: Telemakhos and the Heroes  
Reading: Odyssey, books 1-4

Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Gods

Tuesday, 10/13/98:  (13) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus and the journey home  
Reading: Odyssey, books 5-12

Lecture: Professor Roochnik on The Education of Telemakhos

Thursday, 10/15/98:  (14) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus, on Ithaka  
Reading: Odyssey, books 13-16

Lecture: Professor Nelson on The Odyssey

Tuesday, 10/20/98:  (15) Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus, Penelope, and the death of the suitors  
Reading: Odyssey, books 17-24

Lecture: Professor Scully on The Odyssey
Thursday, 10/22/98: (16) Homer, *The Odyssey*  
Reading: *Odyssey*, books 1-24

Lecture: Professor McClellan on Greek Art

Tuesday, 10/27/98: MIDTERM

Thursday, 10/29/98: (17) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

Lecture: Professor Speight on the Emergence of Tragedy

Tuesday, 11/3/98: (18) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers*

Lecture: Professor Esposito: On the *Agamemnon*

Thursday, 11/5/98: (19) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Eumenides*

Lecture: Professor Nelson on *The Oresteia*

Tuesday, 11/10/98: (20) Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*  
Reading: Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*

Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Polis

Thursday, 11/12/98: (21) Plato, *The Republic*: What is Justice?  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Book 1

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

Tuesday, 11/17/98: (22) Plato, *The Republic*: A City in Speech  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 2-3

Lecture: Professor Roochnik: *The Republic*, Book 2: Philosophy vs. Sophistry

Thursday, 11/19/98: (24) Plato, *The Republic*: Perfecting the City  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 6-7

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Plato on Love, Sex, and Desire
Tuesday, 11/24/98:  
(23) Plato, *The Republic*: The Line and the Cave  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 4-5  

*Professors Jorgensen, Patt, Mohr, and Wildman: Integrating Forum*  

Thursday, 11/26/98:  
NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING VACATION  

Tuesday, 12/1/98:  
Reading: Plato, *Republic*, Books 6-7  

*Lecture: Professor Devlin on Plato's Divided Line*  

Thursday 12/3/98:  
(26) Plato, *The Republic*: The Five Regimes  
Reading: *The Republic*, Books 8-9  

*Lecture: Professor Speight on Plato's Regimes*  

Tuesday 12/8/98:  
(27) Plato, *The Republic*: O Fair Democracy  
Reading: *The Republic*, Books 8-9  

*Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Coordinating Lecture: On Justice*  

Thursday, 12/10/98:  
(28) Plato, *The Republic*: Saving the Myth  
Reading: *The Republic*, Book 10  

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

Thursday, 12/17/98:  
FINAL EXAM, 12:30 p.m.
CC 101 Core Humanities I Reading List

Fall 1998

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

Plato, The Republic, tr. Allan Bloom
(New York: Basic Books (HarperCollins), 1968)
ISBN: 0-465-06934-7