CC 112: Core Social Science I
“Religion, Social Thought and the Roots of Society”

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM . . . http://www.bu.edu/core/cc112

SPRING ’16 LECTURES Thursdays 2-3:30 pm in CAS Room 211, 685 Comm Ave

COORDINATOR Simon Rabinovitch srabinov@bu.edu History, 226 State Road Room 209

FACULTY
Stephanie Nelson nelson@bu.edu Classical Studies, CAS Room 1119
Thomas Michael tmichael@bu.edu Religion, 145 Bay State Road Room B05
Clifford Backman backman@bu.edu History, 226 State Road Room 203
Sassan Tabatabai stabat@bu.edu Core/MLCL, CAS Room 119

SEMINARS
B1 TR 11-12:30 in CAS 220 with Prof. Nelson
B2 TR 12:30-2 in CAS 114B with Prof. Michael
C2 MWF 12-1 in CAS 114B with Prof. Rabinovitch
C3 MWF 2-3 in CAS 212 with Prof. Tabatabai
C4 MWF 3– 4 in CAS 114B with Prof. Backman

Course description. Social scientists often root contemporary inquiries into the form, organization, and function of human societies in the Enlightenment, arguing that its twin legacies of secularism and empiricism are preconditions for any scientific approach to society. But this historiography ignores the many complex ways that Greek, Christian, and Islamic thinkers grappled with key “social science” questions long before the modern era. This course seeks to trace out the pre-social scientific history of some of the major leitmotifs of what we now call “social science,” including the relationships between empirical data and knowledge, narrative and history, discourse and practice, and human sameness and difference. While exploring these leitmotifs, we will pay particular attention to the presence or absence of the kinds of categories and distinctions that animate contemporary understandings of human societies, particularly ideas of culture, religion, secularity, and identity.

Grading. Your seminar instructor determines your final grade, based on the following components: class attendance and participation, 20%; seminar papers, 50%; midterm, 10%; final exam, 20%. Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is an important part of the course. Absences from lecture and seminar will be weighed seriously by your seminar leader, and will bring down your final grade.

The Core Writing Fellows are available for help throughout the semester. Fellows are graduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment, consult the online reservation instructions at www.bu.edu/core/writing, call 617-353-5404, or sign up in the Core Office, CAS 119.

An online writing handbook is available at www.bu.edu/core/handbook.

On the Core website—www.bu.edu/core—students will find faculty profiles and office locations, reading lists, supplemental course material, a departmental activities and academic calendar, syllabi, Writing Fellow contact information and writing FAQs, and other resources.

Required Textbooks are available at the BU Bookstore:

1. Aristotle, Politics, tr. Lord: (Chicago, 9780226921846)
2. Herodotus, The History, tr. Grene (Chicago, 9780226327723)
3. Augustine, City of God, tr. Bettenson (Penguin, 9780140448948)
4. Jean de Joinville, Life of Saint Louis in Chronicles of the Crusades, tr. Caroline Smith (Penguin, 9780140449983)
5. Bartolomé de las Casas: In Defense of the Indians (Northern Illinois University, 9780875805566)
7. Émile Durkheim: Elementary Forms of Religious Life (Oxford, 9780199540129)

Additional readings can be found at www.bu.edu/core/cc112 or in the course packet distributed in hard-copy.

**Learning and testing accommodation.** Boston University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, you should contact your seminar leader and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at access@bu.edu and 617-353-3658. Letters of accommodations should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course. Learn more at http://www.bu.edu/disability/policies-procedures.

**Academic Conduct.** All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. Seminar leaders take the issue of plagiarism seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. If you have questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work, speak with your instructor or consult the Academic Conduct Code at http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct.

**CC 112 Spring 2016 Lecture Schedule:**

**WEEK 1**
1/21 Lecture: David Roochnik (Philosophy)  
Reading: Aristotle (384-322 BCE), *Politics*

**WEEK 2**
1/28 Lecture: Jay Samons (Classics)  
Reading: Herodotus (c. 484 – 425/413 BCE), selections, Bks. 1-7

**WEEK 3**
2/4 Lecture: Zsuzsanna Varhelyi (Classics)  
Reading: Tacitus (c. 56 – after 117 CE), *Germania* (course packet)

**WEEK 4**
2/11 Lecture: Deeana Klepper (Religion and History)  
Reading: Augustine (November 13, 354 – August 28, 430 CE), *City of God*

**WEEK 5**
2/18 Lecture: Integrating Forum  
Reading: Augustine, *City of God*

**WEEK 6**
2/25 Lecture: David DiPasquale (Political Science, Boston College)  
Reading: Al-Farabi (c. 872 in Fārāb, Turkestan –950 in Damascus), *Political Regime* (course packet)

**WEEK 7**
3/3 Lecture: Irit Kleiman (Romance Studies)  
Reading: Jean de Joinville (1224-1317), *The Life of Saint Louis*  
(Selections: Prologue and Chapter 1 [$1$-$66$, pp.141-159]; Chs.3-6 [$106$-$247$, pp.173-207]; Ch.7 [$248$-$253$, pp.208-209; $280$-$318$, pp.217-224]; Ch.8 [$320$-$404$, pp.225-245]; Ch.9 [$451$-$463$, pp.256-259]; Ch.10 [$470$-$498$, pp.262-269]; Ch.14 [$667$, p.313; $685$-$693$, pp.318-319]; Ch.15 [$730$-$768$, pp.328-336])

March 7-11: Spring Break
WEEK 8
3/17 Lecture: Clifford Backman (History)
Reading: Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda (1490-1573), Apology for the book on the just causes of war (ms pp 1-27, course packet)
Bartolomé de las Casas (1484-1566), In Defense of the Indians (Preliminaries, Chapters 1-6; 24; 33-38; 52, 56-58, 63)

WEEK 9
3/24 Lecture: Eugenio Menegon (History)
Reading: Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), The True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven (Intro, Chap. 1, 2, 7; course packet)
Clement XI (1649-1721), Ex Illa Die (course packet)

WEEK 10
3/31 Lecture: James Schmidt (History/Political Science)
Reading: John Locke (1632-1704), A Letter Concerning Toleration (course packet)
James Madison (1751-1836), “Memorial and Remonstrance” (course packet)

WEEK 11
4/7 Lecture: Brian Jorgensen (Core Curriculum)
Reading: William James (1842-1910), Varieties of Religious Experience

WEEK 12
4/14 Lecture: Adam Seligman (Religion)
Reading: Émile Durkheim (1857-1917), Elementary Forms of Religious Life

WEEK 13
4/21 Lecture: Stephen Kalberg (Sociology)
Reading: Durkheim, Elementary Forms of Religious Life

WEEK 14
4/28 Lecture: Parker Shipton (Anthropology)
Reading: E. E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973), Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande

Final Exam: date and location TBA.