

CC101: The Ancient World

Syllabus

Fall 2001

Tuesday 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Tsai Center

Faculty

Professor Clifford Backman (History)
Professor David Eckel (Religion)
Professor Kathleen Fisher (Core)
Professor Gregory Fried (Core/Philosophy)
Professor David Green (Writing/Core)
Professor Robert Levine (English)
Professor Robert McCarthy (Core)
Professor John Newton (English/Core)
Professor Katherine O'Connor (Modern Languages)

Professor Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)
Professor David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Professor Stephen Scully (Classics)
Professor Allen Speight (Philosophy/Core)
Professor William Waters (Modern Languages)
Professor Hallie White (Modern Languages)
Professor Diana Wylie (History)
Professor Patrick Young (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 Babylonians 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; friendship and love; 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.

Books: The books you should purchase and read are available at the Boston University Bookstore. The second 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's system (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%

Examinations: Mid-term and final examinations will be set by the faculty as a whole and given on the dates listed on the syllabus below. Examinations will cover materials in the lectures, seminars, and readings. They will include objective, short essay, and long essay questions. Choices for essay questions will be offered.

Writing: Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum, which works in close cooperation with Boston University's Writing Program to ensure comprehensive instruction in writing for every student in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students who successfully complete both semesters of first-year Core Humanities (CC101 and CC102) receive credit for WR 100, one of the two classes in composition required for all incoming CAS freshmen; students who successfully complete both semesters of the second year of Core Humanities (CC201 and 202) receive credit for WR150, the second of the required classes in composition. Students who complete only one semester of Core Humanities must take WR 100. Students who complete either two or three of the four Core Humanities classes must take WR 150.

Each seminar section will require approximately 25 pages of writing over the course of the semester. Three assignments during the semester will be common to all seminars: a summary and commentary paper (2 pages); a paper involving the imitation and analysis of the style of a particular author (3 pages); and a thesis-driven paper with an argument analyzing a single work (5 pages). The remainder of the writing assignments will be given by individual seminar leaders, who are also responsible for grading your written work (including examinations).

The **Core Writing Center** is available during the semester for help with writing. Core Writing Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have training in grammar and compositional skills and who are familiar as well with the works read in Core. To set up an appointment with a tutor, drop by the Core Office (CAS 119) or call (353-5404) and sign up for a time. The tutors' office is located to the left in the Core Office.

Statement concerning plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined in the Academic Conduct Code as an "attempt by a student to represent the work of another as his or her own. This includes copying the answers of another student on an examination or copying or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work (including websites) without citing the appropriate source, and collaborating with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution." If you are unsure what this means, please consult the Code or ask before you make use of a quotation or a paraphrase.

CC 101 Core Humanities I Reading List: In addition to the works read in class, you are asked also to purchase a copy of *The Bedford Handbook*, which will be used as a reference work for all writing assignments in Core.

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

The Bible, Revised Standard Version
(New York: New American Library, 1962)
ISBN: 0-452-00647-3
Genesis, chapters 1-35
1 and 2 Samuel; 1 Kings, chapters 1-2
Job

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald
(New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1998)
ISBN: 0-374-52574-9

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*, trans. Robert Fagles
(New York: Penguin, 1975)
ISBN: 0-14-04333-9

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

Diana Hacker, *The Bedford Handbook* (fifth edition)
(Boston: Bedford Books, 1998)
ISBN: 0-312-26062-8 (pb)

Lecture and Exam Schedule

All class meetings listed below (except those noted by an asterisk) are scheduled for Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Tsai Center.

Tuesday, September 4:

Lecture: Professor James Johnson: Introduction to the Core Curriculum

Reading: *Gilgamesh*

* Thursday, September 6:

Writing and the Core: Professor David Eckel

Writing Diagnostic Test (Tsai Center)

Tuesday, September 11:

Lecture: Professor Allen Speight: From Gilgamesh to Genesis

Reading: Genesis, chapters 1-11

Tuesday, September 18: **No lecture**

* Thursday, September 20:

Lecture: Professor Paula Fredriksen: Genesis and The Hebrew Bible

Reading: Genesis, chapters 12-35
1 Samuel

Tuesday, September 25:

Lecture: Professor Jonathan Klawans on the Book of Samuel

Reading: 2 Samuel

Tuesday, October 2:

Lecture: Professor Peter Hawkins on the Book of Job

Reading: Job

Tuesday, October 9: **No lecture** (Monday schedule of classes)

* Thursday, October 11:

Lecture: Professor Elie Wiesel on Job and the Hebrew Bible

Reading: Job

Tuesday, October 16:

Lecture: Professor Stephen Scully on Homer and the Greek Gods

Reading: *Odyssey*, Books I-XII

Tuesday, October 23:

Lecture: Professor Stephanie Nelson on the Odyssey