

CC 101: The Ancient World

Fall 2005

Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tsai Performance Center

Faculty

David Eckel, Course Coordinator (CAS 119)

Clifford Backman (History)

Ellen Birnbaum (Core)

Nir Eisikovits (Core)

David Green (Writing/Core)

Brad Herling (Core)

Brian Jorgensen (English/Core)

George Kalogeris (Core)

Alon Navot (Core)

Eve D'Onofrio (Core)

Katherine O'Connor (Modern Languages)

Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)

David Roochnik (Philosophy)

Christopher Roosevelt (Archaeology)

Sassan Tabatabai (Core)

Core Humanities is a four-semester sequence of courses that explore some of the world's finest and most influential works of literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts. The courses follow a chronological sequence that allows students to look at texts from the perspectives of their authors and original audiences and also to discover the qualities that make them timeless and enduring classics.

The First Semester introduces students to two fundamental components of the Western tradition: the world of the Hebrew Scriptures and the culture of the ancient Greeks. The course also considers the Babylonians and other peoples to whom the Hebrews and Greeks are indebted. Among the topics for the semester are: the character of a hero, the relationship between heroes and ordinary human beings, God or the gods, ancient cities, friendship and love, the meaning of justice. Key issues include: human experience of the divine, war (or 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.

Grades will be determined by your seminar professor according to the university's regular grading system (A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, and so forth). Final grades will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and class participation, in the following proportions:

Midterm exam	10%	Seminar papers	50%
Final exam	25%	Seminar attendance and participation	15%

Midterm and Final Examinations will be set by the faculty as a whole and given on the dates listed below. Examinations will be based on the lectures, seminars, and readings. They will include factual, short essay, and long essay questions.

Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University Writing Program. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the first-year Core Humanities (CC 101 and 102) receive credit for WR 100. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year Core Humanities (CC 201 and 202) receive credit for WR 150.

Each seminar will require approximately 20 pages of writing over the course of the semester. Three assignments 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 developed by individual seminar leaders.

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. Writing Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core Office (CAS 119) or call 353-5404. The tutors' office is found in the Core Office.

Academic Conduct: All members of Boston 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 any questions about what constitutes plagiarism and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work, consult the *Academic Conduct Code* or your instructor.

Required Texts are available at the Boston University Bookstore:

- *Gilgamesh*, trans. David Ferry (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1992)
- *The Harper Collins Study Bible* (New Revised Standard Version)
- Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998)
- Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*, trans. Robert Fagles (New York: Penguin, 1975)
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. Rex Warner (New York: Penguin, 1972)
- Plato, *The Republic*, trans. Allan Bloom (New York: Basic Books, 1968)
- Jane Aaron, *The Little, Brown Essential Handbook for Writers*, fifth edition

Schedule of Lectures and Examinations

Week 1 (September 6) Introduction

Week 2 (September 13) *Gilgamesh*
Lecturer: Professor Jorgensen

Week 3 (September 20) Genesis
Lecturer: Professor Gillman

Week 4 (September 27) Exodus
Lecturer: Professor Wiesel

Week 5 (October 4) Job
Lecturer: Professor Hawkins

Monday, October 10, Columbus Day Holiday

Week 6 (October 11) *The Odyssey*
Lecturer: Professor Scully

Week 7 (October 18) *The Odyssey*
Lecturer: Professor Navot

Week 8 (October 25) Mid-Term Examination

Week 9 (November 1) *The Oresteia*
Lecturer: Professor Nelson

Week 10 (November 8) Thucydides
Lecturer: Professor Samons

Week 11 (November 15) *The Republic I*
Lecturer: Professor Roochnik

Week 12 (November 22) *The Republic II*
Lecturer: Professor Roochnik

Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day

Week 13 (November 29) *The Republic III*
Lecturer: TBA

Tuesday (December 6) Conclusion
Lecturers: The Professors of CC 101

Final Examination: Thursday, December 15, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Tsai Auditorium