

CC101: The Ancient World
Fall 2010

Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Avenue
Course Coordinator: David Eckel (Core/Religion)
Coordinator of Student Activities: Kyna Hamill (Core)

Faculty:	Franco Cirulli	(Core)
	Anthony Corsentino	(Core/Philosophy)
	Stephen Esposito	(Classics)
	Jennifer Formichelli	(Core)
	Abigail Gillman	(MLCL)
	Emily Hudson	(Religion)
	Kyna Hamill	(Core)
	Stefan Kalt	(Core)
	Thornton Lockwood	(Core/Philosophy)
	Katherine O'Connor	(MLCL)
	Robert Richardson	(MLCL)
	Maureen Sullivan	(Core)
	James Wood	(Core)

The four semesters of Core Humanities explore some of the world's finest and most influential works of literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts. The semesters follow a historical sequence so that the great works can be studied as an evolving conversation about the enduring questions of human life. Our goal is to discover what the greatest works of the past have to say to us here, right now – to empower and deepen what the Chinese sage Confucius called *human-heartedness*.

The First Semester introduces two fundamental components of the Western tradition: the world of the Hebrew Scriptures and the culture of the ancient Greeks. We also consider the ancient Babylonians, to whom the Hebrews and Greeks were deeply indebted. Among the topics for the semester are: heroism and power, friendship, death and grief, sexuality and love, the city, and the journey home. Key issues include: the experience of God or the divine, the impact of war, the role of human reason, the search for justice, and the concept of beauty in the literary and visual arts.

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%

The final examination will be set by the faculty as a whole and given on the date listed below. The midterm will be set by individual seminar instructors. 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 (CC101 and CC102) receive credit for WR100. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year Core Humanities or the Core Social Sciences (either CC201/202 together or CC203/204 together) receive credit for WR150.

Each seminar will require approximately 15-18 pages of writing over the course of the semester. Two assignments will be common to all seminars: at least one critical summary (2 pages) and at least one thesis-argument paper about a single work (5 pages). Other writing assignments will be developed by individual

seminar leaders. At least one of the writing assignments will focus on selected works of Near Eastern and Classical art in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. 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 or call 353-5404. The tutors' office is found in CAS 129.

On the Core website—<http://bu.edu/core>—students will find faculty office hours, reading lists, supplemental course material, a department activity and academic calendar, syllabi, tutor appointment forms and writing FAQs, and other resources. We hope you will also take advantage of the Core Blog at blogs.bu.edu/core, where you can stay up to date with Core events and participate in a wide-open conversation with Core lecturers and faculty about the issues of the course.

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 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 BU Bookstore and are on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. *Gilgamesh*, trans. David Ferry (9780374523831)
2. *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures* (9780827603660)
3. Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (9780374525743)
4. *Odysseus at Troy: Ajax, Hecuba, and Trojan Women*, ed. Stephen Esposito (9781585103607)
5. Plato, *The Republic*, trans. Allan Bloom (9780465069347)
6. *Rules for Writers*, 6th edition, ed. Diana Hacker (9780312664817)

Schedule of Lectures and Examinations:

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| • Week 1 (September 7) <i>Gilgamesh</i> | Professor Jorgensen |
| • Week 2 (September 14) <i>Genesis I</i> | Professor Zank |
| • Week 3 (September 21) <i>Genesis II</i> | Professor Gillman |
| • Week 4 (September 27) <i>Exodus</i> (Monday at 4:00 p.m. in SMG105) | Professor Wiesel |
| • Week 5 (October 5) The Culture & Religion of Ancient Greece | Professor Scully |
| • Monday, October 11, Columbus Day Holiday | |
| • No class on Tuesday, October 12 - <i>substitute Monday class schedule</i> | |
| • Week 6 (October 19) <i>The Odyssey</i> | Professor Esposito |
| • Week 7 (October 26) "Art and Politics on the Athenian Acropolis" | Professor Kleiner |
| • Week 8 (November 2) Sophocles | Professor Esposito |
| • Week 9 (November 10) Athens in the 5 th Century | Professor Samons |
| • Week 10 (November 16) <i>The Republic I</i> | Professor Roochnik |
| • Week 11 (November 23) <i>The Republic II</i> | Professor Fried |
| • Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 24 to Sunday, November 28 | |
| • Week 12 (November 30 and December 2) <i>Plato's Mathematics</i> | Professor Hall |
| • Week 13 (December 7) <i>A Debate on Democracy</i> | Professors of the Core |
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- Final Examination: 9-11 a.m., December 15th in the Tsai Auditorium