



CC 101: The Ancient World

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM

Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 am, Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Avenue
Fall 2011

COORDINATOR Stephanie Nelson, nelson@bu.edu Office: 745 Comm Ave, Rm. 434

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 18 pages of writing over the course of the semester. Two assignments will be common to all seminars: at least one close reading paper (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 617-353-5404. 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 activities 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* (<http://bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code>) or speak with your instructor.

TEXTBOOKS

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 (9781585103966)
5. Plato, *The Republic*, trans. Allan Bloom (9780465069347)
6. Susan Woodford, *The Parthenon* (9780521226295)
7. *Rules for Writers*, 6th edition, ed. Diana Hacker (9780312664817)

LECTURE SCHEDULE

- Lecture 1, September 6: *Gilgamesh*
- Lecture 2, September 13: *Genesis I*

September 16: Core Open House, 3-5 PM in CAS room 119

- Lecture 3, September 20: *Genesis II*
- Lecture 4, September 27: *Exodus*
- Lecture 5, October 4: The Culture & Religion of Ancient Greece
- Lecture 6, October 11: *The Odyssey*
- Lecture 7, October 18: Athens in the Fifth Century
- Lecture 8, October 25: Art and Politics on the Periclean Acropolis
- Lecture 9, November 1: *Ajax*
- Lecture 10, November 8: *Hecuba*
- Lecture 11, November 15: *The Republic I*
- Lecture 12, November 22 : *The Republic II*

Fall Recess: Wednesday, November 23–Sunday, November 27

- Lecture 13, November 29: *Plato's Mathematics*
- Lecture 14, December 6: A Debate on Democracy

FINAL EXAM

The final is tentatively scheduled for 12/16/11; this will be confirmed later in the semester. The room location and start time will be posted to <http://bu.edu/core/cc101>.

LECTURERS

Brian Jorgensen
Michael Zank

Jennifer Knust
David Damrosch
Stephanie Nelson
Stephen Esposito
Loren Jay Samons III
Fred Kleiner
Stephen Esposito
Stephen Scully
David Roochnik
Greg Fried

Richard Hall
forum