



CC 101: The Ancient World

Fall 2012

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am, Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Avenue

COORDINATOR Stephen Esposito

Office: 745 Commonwealth Ave, Room 410

SEMINARS	B1	Franco Cirulli	MWF 10-11am in CAS 114B	(fcirulli@bu.edu)
	B2	Kyna Hamill	MWF 11am-12pm in CAS 114B	(kyna@bu.edu)
	B3	Abigail Gillman	TR 11am-12:30pm in SED 205	(agillman@bu.edu)
	B4	Franco Cirulli	MWF 12-1pm in CAS 114A	
	B5	Jay Samons	TR 12:30-2pm in CAS 221	(ljs@bu.edu)
	B6	Robert Richardson	MWF 1-2pm in CAS B25A	(rossia@bu.edu)
	B8	Stephen Esposito	TR 2-3:30pm in MUG 424	
	B9	Anita Patterson	TR 3:30-5pm in CAS B25A	(apatters@bu.edu)
	C1	Richard Oxenberg	TR 12:30-2pm in CAS B25A	(oxenberg@bu.edu)
	C2	Franco Cirulli	MWF 11am-12pm in CAS 220	
	C3	Stefan Kalt	TR 2-3:30pm in STH B20	(kaltst@bu.edu)
	C5	David Eckel	MWF 1-2pm in CAS 114A	(mdeckel@bu.edu)
	C6	Richard Oxenberg	TR 3:30-5pm in CAS 204A	
	C7	Richard Oxenberg	TR 11am-12:30pm in CAS B06B	

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 standard grading system, in which 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; 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 summary/analysis paper (2 pages) and at least one close reading or 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, call 617-353-5404, or use the online reservation form at www.bu.edu/core/academics/tutoring. 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 questions about what plagiarism and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work, consult the *Academic Conduct Code* at <http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct> or speak with your instructor.

Required textbooks are available at the BU Bookstore and are on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. *Gilgamesh*, trans. David Ferry (9780374523831)
2. *The Five Books of Moses*, trans. Robert Alter (9780393333930)
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. C.D.C. Reeve (9780872207363)
6. Susan Woodford, *The Parthenon* (9780521226295)
7. *Rules for Writers*, 7th edition, ed. Diana Hacker (9780312647360)

Lecture Schedule:

- Lecture 1, September 4
Sunday, September 9 David Eckel (Core, Religion) on *Gilgamesh*
Scavenger Hunt (noon) and Fruit Drop & Ice Cream Social (2pm), CAS rear lot
- Lecture 2, September 11 Abigail Gilman (MLCL) on Genesis: "God in Search of Man"
- Lecture 3, September 18 Michael Zank (Religion) on Genesis: "Biblical Stories of National Origins"
- Lecture 4, September 25
Thursday, September 27 David Eckel on Exodus: "Four Ways to Read the Book of Exodus"
Integrating Forum: "How We Know What We Know," 7pm, Tsai Center
- Lecture 5, October 2 Jay Samons (Classics) on Greek culture and civilization: "Why the Greeks?"
and Stephanie Nelson (Classics) on *The Odyssey*, Books I-IV
No Lecture, October 9 Tuesday follows a Monday schedule
- Lecture 6, October 16
October 22 and 25 Steve Esposito (Classics) on *The Odyssey*: "What is a Hero in Homer?"
Midterm Exams (for MWF and TR sections, respectively)
- Lecture 7, October 23 Fred Kleiner (Art History): "Art and Politics on the Periclean Acropolis"
- Lecture 8, October 30 Steve Esposito on *Ajax*: "What is Greek Tragedy? and Why Sophocles?"
- Lecture 9, November 6 Kyna Hamill (Core): "Witnessing Tragedy in Euripides' *Hecuba*"
- Lecture 10, November 13 *The Republic*, Pt. 1: Jay Samons on Athenian Democracy
and David Roochnik (Philosophy) on Plato's Reaction
- Lecture 11, November 20 *The Republic*, Pt. 2: Greg Fried (Philosophy, Suffolk University):
"Platonic Education - Is it really relevant today?"
- Lecture 12, November 27 *The Republic*, Pt. 3: Richard Hall (Math): "The Power of Platonic Mathematics"
- Lecture 13, December 4 *The Republic*, Pt. 4: David Roochnik: "Platonic Legacy - Any enduring lessons?"
- Lecture 14, December 11 A Debate on Democracy, with Samons, Oxenberg, Roochnik, McConville

The date for the CC101 final will be confirmed before the end of September. At that time, the date, room location and start time will be announced in lecture, as well as posted to <http://bu.edu/core/cc101>.