

CC 101: The Ancient World

Fall 2014

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM . . . www.bu.edu/core/cc101

LECTURES Tuesdays 9:30-11 am in the Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm Ave

COORDINATOR Stephen Esposito. Department of Classics, 745 Comm Ave, Room 410.

SEMINARS	B1	TR 11am-12:30pm in STH 525	with Allen Speight	casps8@bu.edu
	B2	TR 11am-12:30pm in CAS 114A	with Stephen Esposito	espo@bu.edu
	B3	TR 12:30-2pm in CAS 114A	with Alexandra Herzog	herzog@bu.edu
	B4	TR 2-3:30pm in CAS 114A	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	B5	TR 3:30-5pm in CAS 114A	with Maria Gapotchenko	daisym@bu.edu
	B6	TR 2-3:30pm in MUG 424	with Sassan Tabatabai	stabat67@bu.edu
	C1	MWF 10-11am in CAS 114A	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	C2	MWF 11am-12pm in CAS 114A	with William Waters	waters@bu.edu
	C3	MWF 12-1pm in CAS 114A	with Robert Richardson	rossia@bu.edu
	C4	MWF 1-2pm in CAS 114A	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	C5	MWF 2-3pm in CAS 114B	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	C6	MWF 3-4pm in CAS 114A	with Thomas Michael	tmichael@bu.edu
	C7	MWF 2-3pm in STH 625	with David Green	ddgreen@bu.edu
	D1	Mon 6-9pm in CAS 114B	with Kyna Hamill	kyna@bu.edu

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

from Little Gidding V, Four Quartets
T. S. Eliot, 1943

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 foundational components of the Western tradition: the culture of the ancient Greeks, and the world of the Hebrew Scriptures. We also consider the ancient Babylonians, to whom the Hebrews and Greeks were deeply indebted.

Other topics that will be considered this semester include heroism and power; friendship; death and grief; sexuality and love; the city, and the journey home. Key issues include the experience of 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 (CC 101 and CC 102) receive credit for WR 100. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year

Core Humanities or the Core Social Sciences (either CC 201/202 together or CC 203/204 together) receive credit for WR 150.

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 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

The Core Writing Fellows are available for help throughout the semester. Fellows are graduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. The tutors' office is found in CAS 129. To make an appointment, use the online reservation form at www.bu.edu/core/academics/tutoring, call 617-353-5404, or sign up in the Core Office, CAS 119.

Learning and testing accommodation. Boston University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, you should contact your section leader and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at access@bu.edu and 617-353-3658. Letters of accommodations should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course. Learn more at <http://www.bu.edu/disability/policies-procedures>.

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. Please note that your instructor may create an additional Blackboard course site for the members of your discussion section.

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:

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| 1. <i>Gilgamesh</i> | trans. David Ferry | 9780374523831 |
| 2. <i>The Five Books of Moses</i> | trans. Robert Alter | 9780393333930 |
| 3. <i>Homer's Odyssey</i> | trans. Robert Fitzgerald | 9780374525743 |
| 4. <i>Plato's Republic</i> | trans. C.D.C Reeve | 9780872207363 |
| 5. <i>Odysseus at Troy: Sophocles' Ajax and Euripides' Hecuba and Trojan Women</i> | ed. & trans. Stephen Esposito | 9781585103966 |

Lecture Schedule:

Week 1 Sept. 2	<i>Gilgamesh</i> Brian Jorgensen (Core emeritus)
Wed Sept. 3 Sat Sept. 6	Welcome to Campus Reception for all Core students and alumni: 5 PM, CAS 119 The Annual Natural Sciences Fruit Drop and All-Core BBQ: 11:30 AM – 2 PM, BU Beach
Week 2 Sept. 9	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible Michael Zank (Religion)
Week 3 Sept. 16	The Book of Genesis Rabbi Ariel Burger (Combined Jewish Philanthropies)
Week 4 Sept. 23	The Book of Exodus Jonathan Klawans (Religion)
Week 5 Sept. 30	Introduction to Greek Culture, and Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> Books 1-8 Stephanie Nelson (Director of Core; Classical Studies)
Week 6 Oct. 7	Penelope in <i>The Odyssey</i> Steve Esposito (Coordinator of CC 101; Classical Studies)
Week 7 Oct. 14	<i>No lecture; substitute Monday schedule</i>
Week 8 Oct. 21	Art and Politics on the Periclean Acropolis Fred Kleiner (History of Art & Architecture; and Archaeology)
Oct. 23-24	Midterm Exam (50 minutes, in respective discussion seminar sections)
Week 9 Oct. 28	Sophocles' <i>Ajax</i> Steve Esposito (Coordinator of CC 101; Classical Studies)
Week 10 Nov. 4	Euripides' <i>Hecuba</i> Kyna Hamill (Core)
Week 11 Nov. 11	The Political World of Fifth-Century Athens Jay Samons (Classical Studies)
Week 12 Nov. 18	Plato's <i>Republic</i>: An Introduction David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Week 13 Nov. 25	Platonic Education and Its Contemporary Relevance Greg Fried (Philosophy, Suffolk University)
Week 14 Dec. 2	Plato's Divided Line and the Cave Allegory in <i>The Republic</i> Books 6-7 David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Week 15 Dec. 9	Lecture, TBD
December	Final Exam The date for the CC 101 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 the course webpage.