

CAS CC 101: THE ANCIENT WORLD

FALL 2015

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

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*, T. S. Eliot

LECTURES Tuesdays 9:30-11 am in the School of Law auditorium, 765 Commonwealth Avenue

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

SEMINARS	B1	TR 11am-12:30pm in CAS 114A	with Stephen Esposito	espo@bu.edu
	B2	TR 11am-12:30pm in CAS 114B	with Will Waters	waters@bu.edu
	B3	TR 12:30-2pm in STH 525	with Allen Speight	casp8@bu.edu
	B4	TR 12:30-2pm in CAS 114A	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	B5	TR 2-3:30pm in CAS 235	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	B6	TR 2-3:30pm in CAS 228	with Dennis Costa	dcosta@bu.edu
	B7	TR 3:30-5pm in CAS 114A	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	B8	TR 3:30-5pm in CAS 114B	with Thomas Michael	tmichael@bu.edu
	C1	MWF 10-11am in CAS 114A	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	C2	MWF 11am-12pm in CAS 114A	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	C3	MWF 12-1pm in CAS 114A	with Sassan Tabatabai	stabat67@bu.edu
	C4	MWF 1-2pm in CAS 114A	with Maria Gapotchenko	daisym@bu.edu
	C5	MWF 2-3pm in CAS 114A	with Robert Richardson	rossia@bu.edu
	C6	MWF 11am-12pm in STH 525	with Abigail Gillman	agillman@bu.edu

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 ancient Mesopotamia, to which 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. Each seminar will require approximately 18 pages of writing over the course of the semester. All seminars will require at least one close reading or thesis-argument paper about a single work (4-5 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.

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. To make an appointment, contact the Writing Fellow for your particular seminar, or book an appointment by calling 617-353-5404; signing up in the Core Office, CAS 119; or using the online reservation form at www.bu.edu/core/writing.

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 seminar 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 seminar.

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

NB: All lectures are on Tuesdays, **except September 3rd & 17th**

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| Week 1
Sept. 3 | <i>Gilgamesh</i>
[a THURSDAY] Brian Jorgensen (<i>emeritus</i> Director of the Core Curriculum) |
| Week 2
Sept. 8 | Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
Rabbi Ariel Burger (Adult Learning Initiative, Harold Grinspoon Foundation) |

Tue Sept. 8	Welcome to Campus Reception for all Core students and alumni: 3:30-5:30 PM, CAS 119
Sun Sept. 13	Annual All-Core BBQ: 2 – 5 PM, BU Beach
Week 3 Sept. 17	The Book of Genesis [a THURSDAY] Abigail Gillman (Department of Modern Languages & Comparative Literature)
Week 4 Sept. 22	The Book of Exodus Jonathan Klawans (Department of Religion)
Week 5 Sept. 29	Introduction to Greek Culture, and Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> Books 1-12 Stephanie Nelson (Director of the Core Curriculum; Department of Classical Studies)
Week 6 Oct. 6	Penelope in the <i>Odyssey</i> Steve Esposito (Coordinator of CC 101; Department of Classical Studies)
Week 7	<i>No lecture; follow a Monday schedule on Tuesday, October 13th</i>
Week 8 Oct. 20	The Political World of Fifth-Century Athens Jay Samons (Department of Classical Studies)
Week 9 Oct. 27	Art and Politics on the Periclean Acropolis Fred Kleiner (Department of the History of Art & Architecture; Department of Archaeology)
Oct. 29-30	Midterm Exam (50 minutes, in discussion seminar)
Week 10 Nov. 3	Sophocles' <i>Ajax</i> Steve Esposito (Coordinator of CC 101; Department of Classical Studies)
Week 11 Nov. 10	Euripides' <i>Hecuba</i> Kyna Hamill (Assistant Director of the Core Curriculum)
Week 12 Nov. 17	Plato's <i>Republic</i>: An Introduction Drew Hyland (Trinity College, Department of Philosophy)
Week 13 Nov. 24	Plato's <i>Republic</i>: The City and the Soul Greg Fried (Suffolk University, Department of Philosophy)
Nov. 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Week 14 Dec. 1	Plato's Divided Line and the Cave Allegory in <i>The Republic</i> Books 6-7 Allen Speight (Department of Philosophy)
Week 15 Dec. 8	The End of Plato's <i>Republic</i>; and An Overview of the Whole Steve Esposito (Coordinator of CC 101; Department of Classical Studies)
Dec. 10	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
Dec. 11-14	STUDY PERIOD
Dec. 15	FINAL EXAM: 9-11 AM