

CAS CC 101 : ANCIENT WORLDS

FALL SEMESTER, 2016

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 11a-12:30pm in CAS 114A	with Marie McDonough	msmcd@bu.edu
	B2	TR 11am-12:30pm in CAS 114B	with William Waters	waters@bu.edu
	B3	TR 12:30-2pm in STH 525	with Benjamin Crowe	bcrowe@bu.edu
	B4	TR 12:30-2pm in CAS 114B	with Abigail Gillman	agillman@bu.edu
	B5	TR 2-3:30pm in CAS 114B	with Stephen Esposito	espo@bu.edu
	B6	TR 2-3:30pm in CAS 114A	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	B7	TR 3:30-5pm in CAS 114A	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	B8	TR 5-6:30pm in CAS 114A	with Maria Gapotchenko	daisym@bu.edu
	C2	MWF 10-11am in CAS 114A	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	C3	MWF 11am-12pm in CAS 114A	with Diana Wylie	dwylie@bu.edu
	C4	MWF 12-1pm in CAS 114A	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	C5	MWF 1-2pm in CAS 114B	with Kyna Hamill	kyna@bu.edu
	C6	MWF 2-3pm in COM 217	with James Johnson	jhj@bu.edu
	D1	Wed 3-6pm in CAS 114A	with Irit Kleiman	kleiman@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.

Course Goals for Writing. Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University Writing Program. While each seminar instructor determines the specific writing assignments, all CC 101 classes aim to help students develop the abilities to do the following:

- use writing to develop and deepen thinking
- analyze complex texts and works of art
- produce an insightful, well-argued paper discussing these works
- write clear and correct prose that also achieves a certain grace of style

Writing Assignments. 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, Boston.

Writing Fellows. Each CC 101 seminar has been assigned a graduate student Writing Fellow who is available to work with you one on one to support you at any stage of the writing process and help you work toward any and all of the course goals listed above. You are required meet with your seminar's WF at least once in the first few weeks of the term. You can make an appointment with your WF according to the instructions on your seminar syllabus. Additional writing resources can be accessed via <http://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. Students with questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work in an academic setting should speak with their instructor or consult the *Academic Conduct Code* online at <http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct>.

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</i> | ed. Stephen Esposito | 9781585103966 |

Fall 2016 Lecture Schedule

NB: All Tuesday lectures take place in LAW, **with the exception of Nov. 8**

Week 1 Sept. 6	<i>Gilgamesh</i> Brian Jorgensen (<i>emeritus</i> Director of the Core Curriculum)
EVENT	Tues. Sept. 6: Welcome Back Reception for Core students and alumni: 3:30-5 PM, CAS 119
EVENT	Sun. Sept. 11: Annual All-Core BBQ : 2 – 4 PM, BU Beach
Week 2 Sept. 13	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible Rabbi Ariel Burger
EVENT	Wed. Sept. 14: Fall Language Fair : 2 – 4 PM, Marsh Plaza
Week 3 Sept. 20	The Book of Genesis Kathe Darr (School of Theology)
Week 4 Sept. 27	The Book of Exodus Jonathan Klawans (Department of Religion)
Week 5 Oct. 4	Introduction to Greek Culture, and Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> Books 1-8 Stephen Scully (Department of Classical Studies)
Week 6	<i>No lecture; follow a Monday schedule on Tuesday, October 11th</i>
Week 7 Oct. 18	Penelope and Female Heroism in the <i>Odyssey</i> Steve Esposito (coordinator of CC 101; Department of Classical Studies)
Week 8 Oct. 25	Athena's Importance in Greece and Athens Fred Kleiner (Department of the History of Art & Architecture; Department of Archaeology)
Oct. 27-28	Midterm Exams (50 minutes, in discussion seminar)
Week 9 Nov. 1	The Importance of 'Tragic Heroes' like Ajax Steve Esposito
Week 10 Nov. 8	Witnessing Euripides' <i>Hecuba</i> Kyna Hamill (Assistant Director of the Core Curriculum) NB: This lecture will be held in the GSU Conference Auditorium, 775 Comm Ave, second floor
Week 11 Nov. 15	Plato's <i>Republic</i>: An Introduction Judith Swanson (Department of Political Science)
Week 12 Nov. 22	Plato's <i>Republic</i>: The City and the Soul in Plato's <i>Republic</i> Greg Fried (Suffolk University, Department of Philosophy)
Nov. 23-27	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
Week 13 Nov. 29	Plato's Divided Line and Cave Allegory Allen Speight (Department of Philosophy)
Week 14 Dec. 6	Plato's Critique of Democracy and Poets Jay Samons and Steve Esposito
Dec. 12	<i>last day of classes</i>
Dec. 13-15	<i>study period</i>
Dec. TBA	FINAL EXAM NB: The date and time of the final exam will be confirmed in September.