

CAS CC 101 : ANCIENT WORLDS

FALL SEMESTER, 2017

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 Tues 9:30-10:45 AM in the Hariri Building (Questrom), Rm 105, 595 Comm Ave

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

SEMINARS	B1	TR 11:00am - 12:15pm in MCS B-19	with Brian Walsh	bgwalsh@bu.edu
	B2	TR 11:00am - 12:15pm in STH 625	with Rebecca Martin	srmartin@bu.edu
	B3	TR 11:00am - 12:15pm in CAS 114-A	with Jennifer Row	jrow@bu.edu
	B4	TR 12:30pm - 1:45pm in STH 625	with Allen Speight	casp8@bu.edu
	B5	TR 12:30pm - 1:45pm in CAS 114-A	with Maria Gapotchenko	daisym@bu.edu
	B6	TR 2:00pm - 3:15pm in STH 625	with Stephen Esposito	espo@bu.edu
	B7	TR 2:00pm - 3:15pm in CAS 114-A	with Marie McDonough	msmcd@bu.edu
	B8	TR 3:30pm - 4:45pm in CAS 114-A	with Jason Prentice	prentice@bu.edu
	B9	TR 8:00am - 9:15am in CAS 114-B	with Stephanie Nelson	nelson@bu.edu
	C2	MWF 9:05am - 9:55am in CAS 114-A	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	C3	MWF 10:10am - 11:00am in CAS 114-B	with Kyna Hamill	kyna@bu.edu
	C4	MWF 11:15am - 12:05pm in CAS 114-B	with Clifford Backman	cbackman@bu.edu
	C5	MWF 12:20pm - 1:10pm in CAS 119	with Catherine Klancer	chudak@bu.edu
	C6	MWF 1:25pm - 2:15pm in CAS 114-B	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	C7	MWF 2:30pm - 3:20pm in CAS 114-B	with Gabrielle Sims	gsims@bu.edu
	D1	MW 2:30pm - 3:45pm in KCB 103	with James Johnson	jhj@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%
- final exam, 25%
- seminar papers, 50%
- 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.

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 can also be borrowed from the Core office:

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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 2017 Lecture & Exam Schedule

Week 1 Sept. 5	<i>Gilgamesh</i> Brian Jorgensen, <i>emeritus</i> Director of the Core Curriculum
EVENT	Tue. Sept. 5: Welcome Back Reception for Core students and alumni: 4-5 PM, CAS 119
EVENT	Sat. Sept. 9: Adopt-a-Book & Breakfast for Core students and alumni: 10 AM - noon, CAS 119
Week 2 Sept. 12	The Bible (I): Introduction to the Hebrew Bible Rabbi Nehemia Polen, Hebrew College
Week 3 Sept. 19	The Bible (II): The Book of Genesis Kathe Darr, School of Theology
EVENT	Sun. Sept. 24: Annual All-Core BBQ : 2-4 PM, BU Beach
Week 4 Sept. 26	The Bible (III): The Book of Exodus Jonathan Klawans, Department of Religion
Week 5 Oct. 3	Homer's Odyssey (I): Introduction to Greek Culture, and Homer's Odyssey Books 1-8 Stephanie Nelson, Director of Core; Department of Classical Studies
Week 6	<i>No lecture; follow a Monday schedule on Tuesday, October 10th. Seminars to discuss Homer's Odyssey (II).</i>
Week 7 Oct. 17	Homer's Odyssey (III): Penelope and Female Heroism in the Odyssey Steve Esposito, Coordinator of CC 101; Department of Classical Studies
Week 8 Oct. 24	Historical Transition: Art, Politics and Imperialism in the Age of Pericles Fred Kleiner, Department of the History of Art & Architecture; Department of Archaeology
EXAM	Midterm Exam : 50 minutes, in discussion seminars.
Week 9 Oct. 31	Greek Tragedy (I): The Importance of 'Tragic Heroes' like Ajax Steve Esposito
Week 10 Nov. 7	Historical Transition: Political Change from Homeric to Classical Greece L. J. Samons, Department of Classical Studies
Week 11 Nov. 14	Greek Tragedy (II): Witnessing Euripides' Hecuba Kyna Hamill, Core Curriculum
Week 12 Nov. 21	Plato's Republic (I): An Introduction to Plato's Republic Keith Whitaker, Wise Counsel Research
Nov. 22-26	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</i>
Week 13 Nov. 28	Plato's Republic (II): The City and Soul in Plato's Republic Greg Fried, Suffolk University
Week 14 Dec. 5	Plato's Republic (III): Plato's Divided Line and the Allegory of the Cave Allen Speight, Department of Philosophy
Week 15 Dec. 12	Plato's Republic (IV): Plato's Critique of Democracy and of Poets Samons & Esposito
Dec. 13-15	<i>study period</i>
EXAM	Final Exam : all sections on Dec. 19