

## CC 101: The Ancient World

### Core Instructors

James Devlin (Philosophy)  
Brian Jorgensen (Classical Studies)  
Aryeh Motzkin (Philosophy)

Stephen Scully (Classical Studies)  
Judith Swanson (Political Science)  
William Wians (Philosophy)

**Course Description** The backbone of the CLA's Integrated Core Curriculum is the Humanities Core Course. The Humanities Core is a four-semester sequence of courses, each organized around a close study of some of the most famous and influential works of literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts. The sequence develops chronologically, allowing students both to understand a text from the perspective of its author and original audience, and to discover the qualities that make it a timeless and enduring classic. The first semester of the Core will acquaint students with the two seminal strands of the Western tradition: the Hebrew Scriptures, and the world of the ancient Greeks.

Each of the four courses in the Humanities Core sequence will consist of two hour-long lectures per week plus two hours of seminar with an individual instructor. Students must register for both the lectures and a seminar to be enrolled in the Core.

- Lectures will provide students with a context for the detailed textual studies conducted in their seminars, and will feature some of Boston University's leading experts and teachers. All lectures will be delivered in Stone B-50 from 3:30 to 4:30. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken using an assigned seat plan about five minutes after the start of each lecture.

- The seminars will be small, to allow for the intensive study of material and the lively interchange of ideas. Seminar texts will be read following schedules set by individual instructors.

**Books** The books you should purchase and read are available at the BU Bookstore.

#### Seminar texts:

- The Holy Bible, revised Standard edition (NAL)
- Homer: The Odyssey (Doubleday)
- Sophocles: Sophocles I (Chicago)
- Bloom: The Republic of Plato (Basic Books)
- Plato: The Republic and Other Works (Anchor)

#### Lecture texts:

- Shanks: Ancient Israel (Prentice Hall)
- Finley: World of Odysseus (Viking/Penguin)
- Finley: The Ancient Greeks (Viking/Penguin)

- Students may also be asked to purchase photocopied materials from time to time.

**Grading** Final grades will be determined by the student's seminar instructor and will follow the University curve (A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, etc.). The grade will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and participation, with the following proportions:

Mid-term exam	10%	Seminar papers	50%
Final exam	15%	Seminar participation	25%

- Exams will cover materials in the lectures and lecture readings. Their format will be largely objective. The final exam will be cumulative. Paper topics will be assigned and graded by the seminar instructors.

Lecture Schedule  
CC 101: The Ancient World

Stone B-50, 3:30-4:30

Lecture 1 (Thur, 31 Aug):  
Introduction to the Humanities Core  
Curriculum  
William Wians, Philosophy Department and  
Coordinator, Humanities Core

Lecture 2 (Tues, 5 Sep):  
Origins of Civilization in the Near East  
Prof. Paul Zimansky, Archaeology  
Department  
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 3 (Thur, 7 Sep):  
Origins of Literacy and the Alphabet  
Prof. Zimansky  
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 4 (Tues, 12 Sep):  
Patriarchal Age and Exodus  
Prof. James Purvis, Religion Department  
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 1

Lecture 5 (Thur, 14 Sep):  
Who Wrote the Bible?  
Prof. Purvis  
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 2

Lecture 6 (Tues, 19 Sep):  
Kingship  
Prof. Aryeh Motzkin, Philosophy  
Department and the Humanities Core  
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 3

Lecture 7 (Thur, 21 Sep):  
Aspects of Biblical Narrative  
Reuven Firestone, Modern Foreign  
Languages  
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 4

Lecture 8 (Tues, 26 Sep):  
Prophecy  
Prof. Motzkin  
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 5

Lecture 9 (Thur, 28 Sep):  
Purvis, Fall of Israel and Birth of Judaism  
Prof. Purvis  
—Readings: Ancient Israel Ch 6 and 8

Lecture 10 (Tues, 3 Oct):  
From Mycenae to Homer  
Prof. Stephen Scully, Classical Studies  
Department and the Humanities Core  
—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch I and II;  
World of Odysseus Ch I

Lecture 11 (Thur, 5 Oct):  
The Greek Gods  
Prof. Scully  
—Readings: World of Odysseus Ch II and V

Lecture 12 (Tues, 10 Oct):  
Art in the Archaic Age  
Prof. Greg Leftwich, Art History Department  
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 13 (Thur, 12 Oct):  
Origins of Science and Technology  
Prof. Wians  
—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 14 (Tues, 17 Oct):  
Women in Greek Society  
Prof. Emily Hanawalt, School of Theology  
—Readings: World of Odysseus Ch III and  
IV

Lecture 15 (Thur, 19 Oct):

The Greek Polis

Prof. Rufus Fears, Classical Studies  
Department

—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch III

Lecture 16 (Tues, 24 Oct):

Tragedy

Prof. Stephen Esposito, Classical Studies  
Department

—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch V

Lecture 17 (Thur, 26 Oct):

Golden Age of Athens

Prof. Meyer Reinhold, Classical Studies  
Department

—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch IV

Lecture 18 (Tues, 31 Oct):

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Lecture 19 (Thur, 2 Nov):

Classical Art and the Acropolis

Prof. Leftwich

—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch VII

Lecture 20 (Tues, 7 Nov):

Decline of Athens

Prof. Reinhold

—Readings: photocopy

Lecture 21 (Thur, 9 Nov):

Philosophy Before Socrates

Prof. Wians

—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch VI

Lecture 22 (Tues, 14 Nov):

The Problem of Socrates

Prof. Wians

Lecture 23 (Thur, 16 Nov):

Plato and the Sophists

Prof. Motzkin

Lecture 24 (Tues, 21 Nov):

Plato and the Poets

Prof. Motzkin

Lecture 25 (Tues, 28 Nov):

Plato on Regimes

Prof. Judith Swanson, Political Science  
Department and the Humanities Core

Lecture 26 (Thur, 30 Nov):

The Divided Line

Prof. James Devlin, Philosophy Department  
and the Humanities Core

Lecture 27 (Tues, 5 Dec):

Plato on Sex, Love, and Desire

Prof. Brian Jorgensen, Classical Studies  
Department and the Humanities Core

Lecture 28 (Thur, 7 Dec):

The Legacy of Greece

Prof. Reinhold

—Readings: Ancient Greeks Ch VII

---

**Final Examination: Tuesday, 19 December, 9-11am in Stone B-50.**