

CC 102: ANTIQUITY AND THE MEDIEVAL WORLD



BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM
SPRING 2011

COORDINATOR

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FACULTY

Franco Cirulli (Core)
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Stephanie Nelson (Classics)
Robert Richardson (MLCL)
David Roochnik (Philosophy)
James Wood (Core)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of the theme of “the Way” in Western philosophical and literary traditions from late antiquity to the Middle Ages and in the classic sources of Chinese and Indian civilization. The course begins with Plato’s pupil Aristotle, whose work serves as the foundation for Western ethics. It then journeys east to encounter the *Analects* of Confucius, Lao Tzu’s *Tao Te Ching*, the *Bhagavad Gita*, and *The Life of the Buddha*. It then returns to the eastern Mediterranean with Aeneas’s epic journey from the destruction of Troy to the foundation of Rome, Jesus’ journey in the Gospels, and Dante’s imaginative journey from the terrors of hell to the contemplation of paradise. These traditions, texts, and thinkers challenge us to consider what it means to be human in the truest sense, how to live in harmony with the cosmos, other people, and ourselves, how to escape the suffering of human existence, and what it means to hope and to love.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND GRADES

Grades will be determined by your seminar leader according to the university’s regular grading system (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%

Examinations: The Midterm examination will be set by your seminar leader and will be given in a regular seminar session during the week of February 28. The Final examination will be set by the faculty as a whole and given at the time specified by the Registrar. Examinations will be based on the lectures, readings, and seminar discussions. They will include objective, short essay, and long essay questions. Note that exam dates and times are firm commitments and cannot be changed.

Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum. Students who complete CC 101/102 (first-year Core Humanities) satisfy the WR 100 requirement. Students who complete CC 201/202 (second-year Core Humanities) or CC 203/204 (Core Social Sciences) satisfy the WR 150 requirement. Each seminar will require approximately 18-20

pages of writing. One of the required assignments will involve the study of Asian, Roman, or Christian art in the Museum of Fine Arts. Other writing assignments will be developed by individual seminar leaders.

The Core Writing Center is open throughout the semester. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core Office (CAS 119) or call 353-5404. The tutors' office is found in CAS 129.

Academic Conduct: All members of Boston 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. All websites consulted for written work must be acknowledged in your papers. Unacknowledged use of material from the Internet will be considered plagiarism and dealt with as such. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work, consult the *Academic Conduct Code* or your instructor. It is your responsibility to read the relevant pages from the *Academic Conduct Code* carefully and understand how it applies to your work in this course.

Required Texts will be available at Boston University's Barnes & Noble:

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, tr. Ostwald 9780023895302
- Confucius, *Analects*, tr. Waley 9780679722960
- Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, tr. Addiss and Lombardo 9780872202320
- *The Bhagavad Gita*, tr. Miller 9780553213652
- *The Life of the Buddha by Ashvaghosha*, tr. Olivelle 9780814762165
- Virgil, *The Aeneid*, tr. Fitzgerald 9780679729525
- The New Testament, Revised Standard Version 9781585160303
- Dante, *Inferno*, tr. Mandelbaum 9780553213393
- Dante, *Purgatorio*, tr. Mandelbaum 9780553213447
- Dante, *Paradiso*, tr. Mandelbaum 9780553212044

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Week 1 (January 18) Aristotle I	Lecturer: Professor Roochnik
Week 2 (January 25) Aristotle II	Lecturer: Professor Bronstein
Week 3 (February 1) Confucius	Lecturer: Professor Denecke
Week 4 (February 8) Lao Tzu	Lecturer: Professor Michael
Week 5 (February 15) <i>The Bhagavad Gita</i>	Lecturer: Professor Hudson
Week 6 (Thursday, February 24) <i>The Life of the Buddha</i>	Lecturer: Professor Eckel
Week 7 (March 1) Roman History	Lecturer: Professor Samons
Week 8 (March 8) <i>The Aeneid</i>	Lecturer: Professor Nelson

March 12-20: Spring Vacation

Week 9 (March 22) From Rome to the Medieval World	Lecturer: Professor Kleiner
Week 10 (March 29) <i>The Gospel of Matthew</i>	Lecturer: Professor Frankfurter
Week 11 (April 5) <i>The Gospel of John</i>	Lecturer: Professor Knust
Week 12 (April 12) Dante's <i>Inferno</i>	Lecturer: Professor Cook
Week 13 (April 19) Dante's <i>Purgatorio</i>	Lecturer: Professor Herzman
Week 14 (April 26) Dante's <i>Paradiso</i>	Lecturer: Professor Jorgensen
Week 15 (May 3) Summary and Conclusion	

Final Exams begin on Tuesday, May 10