

Core Curriculum CC 102: Core Humanities II

“The Way: Antiquity and the Medieval World”

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

Spring 2021 Syllabus

Lectures: Tuesdays 9:30-11:45am

Lecture Zoom: Meeting #: 912 1809 2902 Passcode: cascc102

Course Credits: 4.0

SEMINARS:	B1 w/ Klein, <i>sophie@bu.edu</i> :	TR 8-9:15am (NIP)
	B2 w/ Klein, <i>sophie@bu.edu</i> :	TR 11am-12:15pm (NIP)
	B3 w/ Walsh, <i>bgwalsh@bu.edu</i> :	TR 11am-12:15pm in CAS 114B
	B4 w/ Walsh, <i>bgwalsh@bu.edu</i> :	TR 12:30-1:45pm in CAS 114B
	B6 w/ Hughes, <i>adhughes@bu.edu</i> :	TR 2-3:15pm (NIP)
	B7 w/ Harrington, <i>lharring@bu.edu</i> :	TR 3:30-4:45pm (NIP)
	C1 w/ Voekel, <i>svoekel@bu.edu</i> :	MWF 9:05-9:55am (NIP)
	C2 w/ Vahamikos, <i>gtv@bu.edu</i> :	MWF 10:10-11am in CAS 114B
	C4 w/ Green, <i>ddgreen@bu.edu</i> :	MWF 12:20-1:10pm (NIP)
	C6 w/ Lior, <i>yairlior@bu.edu</i> :	MWF 2:30-3:20pm (NIP)

COURSE COORDINATOR: Brian Walsh, 617-358-2894, *bgwalsh@bu.edu*

Main Department Offices: CAS Room 119, open Monday-Thursday, 9-5pm

Course Description. This course continues examination of the literary, philosophical, artistic, and religious traditions that produced modern culture in the West as well as examining similar and contrasting traditions that emerged in the East. The central questions addressed are: What is our place in the world? “What is the best way to live? What are the most important questions each man or woman must ask himself or herself about life and life’s responsibilities? How did those who established the basic framework of our culture answer those questions and how should we (or you) answer them today?”

We will also emphasize the development of your writing skills. When you finish this course, you should be able to present yourself and your ideas in a compelling way and to analyze the way others present themselves and their ideas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specific Learning Outcomes:

A. Foundational Writing:

1. Students will be able to craft responsible, considered, and well-structured written arguments, using media and modes of expression appropriate to the situation.
2. Students will be able to read with understanding, engagement, appreciation, and critical judgment.
3. Students will be able to write clearly and coherently in a range of genres and styles, integrating graphic and multimedia elements as appropriate.

B. Oral and/or Signed Communication:

1. Students will be able to craft and deliver responsible, considered and well-structured oral and/or signed arguments using media and modes of expression appropriate to the situation.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding that oral/signed communication is generally interactive, and they should be able to attend and respond thoughtfully to others.
3. Students will be able to speak/sign effectively in situations ranging from the formal to the extemporaneous and interact comfortably with diverse audiences.

Evaluation of Learning Outcomes. Learning outcomes A.1 and A.2 will be evaluated through a) the production of essays that engage and analyze the texts read in this course, that demonstrate comprehension of the themes, ideas, and concepts appearing in those texts, and that present the student’s ideas in coherent, clear, and well-organized prose.

Learning outcome A.3 will be evaluated through the different types of writing to be produced in the course, including summary, close-reading, “lens”-style analysis (using one work to approach and analyze another), argument- and evidence-driven pieces, and dialogues. One writing assignment will engage at least one work of art in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and must integrate graphic and multimedia elements.

Learning outcomes B.1 and B.2 will be evaluated through a) students’ formal oral presentations of their papers in class, b) students’ formal oral analysis of the presentation of other students based on the Aristotelian principles of rhetoric (ethos, pathos, and logos). Learning outcome B.3 will be evaluated through the participation of students in the daily discussion and analysis of texts. Students are expected to present cogent and coherent ideas and commentary in class that demonstrate familiarity with assigned readings and careful attention to the comments and ideas of others in the course.

Instructional Format, Course Pedagogy, and Approach to Learning. This course utilizes a mixed format of lectures and discussions, both of which depend on student engagement with assigned readings. Pedagogy, especially in seminar, is interactive, requiring students to participate through the formulation of questions and comments. The approach therefore requires both passive receipt of information and the active analysis, processing, and interpretation of information. The goal is the acquisition both of a body of knowledge and of the skills needed to analyze information critically and to produce coherent and persuasive written and oral communication.

Courseware and Communication: Course communication will take place via announcements and handouts in lecture and seminar, and email messages sent from core@bu.edu and from the accounts of individual seminar instructors. Lecture media, handouts, and readings can be accessed via www.bu.edu/core/cc102.

Your seminar leader may make use of a course site specific to your section, for sharing assignment materials, readings, and other resources. Seminar-specific courses sites can be accessed via www.learn.bu.edu.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

Grading Rubric. 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:

Attendance & participation:	20%	Seminar papers:	50%
Midterm Exam:	15%	Final Exam:	15%

Because this course is based on your own engagement with the texts and ideas we will encounter, attendance at lectures and seminar is crucial. Consistent, thorough, daily preparation and vigorous class participation are keys to success. Read the books and be prepared to think and speak.

What you must do to succeed in this course:

1. *Attendance.* Because this course is based on your own engagement with the texts and ideas we will encounter, attendance at lectures and seminar is crucial. Unexcused absences at discussion or lecture will reduce your grade.
2. *Preparation.* Consistent, thorough, daily preparation of reading and writing assignments and vigorous class participation are keys to success. In short, read the books and be prepared to think and speak.
3. *Write, re-write and edit.* Writing is a multi-stage process that involves collecting information, thinking and preparing, composing drafts, revising and editing drafts, and then presenting your work. Make use of the resources available to you, including the Writing Fellow and the instructor. Seek them out and bring drafts of your work for discussion.
4. *Use your eyes and ears.* In in-person class sessions, we will typically not allow the use of laptops, as we require your complete attention. Be attentive in class. This is a matter of courtesy as well as good practice for future courses and meetings.
5. *Environment.* You are responsible to show respect and courtesy to your fellow students and your instructor.

Examinations. The course requires both a midterm held in seminar and a common and comprehensive final exam. Both will contain requests for specific information (identifications), analysis of passages read, and essay questions asking students to address larger themes in the course. Students will be provided with a review sheet for both the midterm and final exam and group review session with both faculty and Core Peer Tutors will be arranged and are encouraged.

Writing Assignments. Although writing assignments will vary, as described on the syllabi of individual seminar instructors, all students in CC 102 will complete approximately 17 pages of evaluated writing (~5,000 words total) including at least one comparative and one thesis-driven paper. At least one paper in each seminar will also be

designated for multiple revisions. Many opportunities for feedback will be provided through assignments designed to elicit reflection on the writing process. Such assignments may include peer evaluations of writing, in-class oral evaluation of students' writing in class, analysis of discursive question-driven topics, summaries of works examined, "lens"-style analysis, argument- and evidence-driven pieces, dialogues and creative works. One paper will approach a work of art in the MFA and will include graphic/multi-media elements.

Writing Support. The Writing Fellow attached to your individual seminar is available throughout the semester. WFs will be able to give you tips on format and style that should notably increase the effectiveness of your writing and can offer one-on-one help with any particular difficulties with writing.

Instructions for making appointments with your WF can be accessed via www.bu.edu/core/writing. Note the office hours of your individual seminar instructor and the specific instructions for utilizing the Writing Fellow attached to your seminar. Aside from your assigned WF, appointments can be made with the at-large and ESL Writing Fellows.

Required Books. All books can be purchased at the Boston University Barnes & Noble. Be sure to obtain these *specific* editions:

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, tr. Ostwald, 9780023895302
- *The Analects of Confucius*, tr. Watson, 9780231141659
- *The Daodejing of Laozi*, tr. Ivanhoe, 9780872207011
- Farid ud-Din Attar, *The Conference of the Birds*, tr. Darbandi & Davis, 9780140444346
- Virgil, *The Aeneid*, tr. Fitzgerald, 9780679729525
- The New Testament, Revised Standard Version, 9780452006478
- Dante, *Inferno*, tr. Mandelbaum, 9780553213393
- Dante, *Purgatorio*, tr. Mandelbaum, 9780553213447
- Dante, *Paradiso*, tr. Mandelbaum, 9780553212044

(In addition to these, readings by **Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim** will be distributed in lecture, in advance of the March lecture concerning her work.)

PDF copies of all course readings will be available at www.bu.edu/core/cc102. On-campus students in need of a coursebook may visit CAS Room 119 to sign out a Core copy of required texts, if available, or can check the Core Book Bank to claim a free copy. Finally, an optional online writing handbook—written specifically to address aspects of writing encountered in Core—can be accessed via www.bu.edu/core/writing.

COMMUNITY OF LEARNING: CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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 accommodation should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course. Learn more at www.bu.edu/disability/policies-procedures.

Learning Environment and Attendance. See above for your responsibility to create a positive learning environment and attend the course regularly (more than three unexcused absences will reduce your grade by one letter). In addition to these responsibilities, please note the following:

Religious Observance. Boston University's policy on religious observance will be adhered to in this course.

Academic Misconduct. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct in this course will result in a failing grade for the course and/or referral of the case to the CAS Academic Conduct Committee, which may impose penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. Please consult your instructor or the University's Academic Conduct Code if you have questions about the kinds of actions that constitute plagiarism. Your best rule is to make sure you cite every source you employ, use quotations marks and provide a citation whenever you use someone else's words. The syllabus, course description, and all class lectures are copyright by the respective

faculty. Lectures may not be reproduced in any form or otherwise copied, displayed, or distributed without the written permission of the instructor. Please note in particular that selling or buying lecture notes or summaries is prohibited in this class and may result in disciplinary action under the B.U. Code of Student Responsibilities. You may consult the BU academic conduct code at www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code.

Dates, and Policies Regarding Late Work and Exams. Your seminar leaders will determine how papers and other work should be submitted, as well as the penalties assigned for late work. It is possible for you to take a make-up version of the final exam if you have an exam scheduling conflict or three exams scheduled on the same day. Contact the office via core@bu.edu, and your seminar leader, if this is the case. Please be sure to keep a backup copy of all papers written.

CC 102 Spring 2021 Schedule of Lectures

Lectures begin 9:30 am (EST) on Zoom. Make sure that you are on time for these and all other meetings. This schedule is subject to change; any such changes will be announced in lecture or communicated to you via email.

Week 1: Aristotle

Tues. 1/26 Lecturer: Prof. David Roochnik, Philosophy

Week 2: Confucius

Tues. 2/2 Lecturer: Prof. April Hughes, Religion

Week 3: Laozi

Tues. 2/9 Lecturer: Prof. April Hughes, Religion

Week 4: Tues. 2/16 follows a Monday schedule; no lecture

Week 5: Roman History

Tues. 2/23 Lecturer: Prof. Jay Samons, Classical Studies

Week 6: Virgil

Tues. 3/2 Lecturer: Prof. James Uden, Classical Studies

Note: midterm exams will be administered this week, in section

Week 7: Gospel of Matthew

Tues. 3/9 Lecturer: Prof. Jennifer Knust, Duke University

Week 8: Gospel of John

Tues. 3/16 Lecturer: Prof. David Frankfurter, Religion

Week 9: *Conference of the Birds*

Tues. 3/23 Lecturer: Prof. Sassan Tabatabai, Core and WLL

Week 10: Hrotsvitha

Tues. 3/30 Lecturer: Prof. Amy Appleford, English

Week 11: *Inferno*

Tues. 4/6 Lecturer: Prof. Domenico Pietropaolo, University of Toronto

Week 12: *Purgatorio* and medieval art

Tues. 4/13 Lecturer: Prof. Kyna Hamill, Core

Week 13: *Paradiso*

Tues. 4/20 Lecturer: Prof. Peter Hawkins, Yale University

Week 14: End of term forum on Tues. 4/27; speakers and details TBA.

4/29 Last Day of Classes

4/30 – 5/3 Study Period

Final Exam: May 5, 2021, 9-11 AM (EST)