

Core Curriculum CC102: Core Humanities II

“The Way: Antiquity and the Medieval World”

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

Spring 2022 Syllabus

Lectures: Tuesdays 9:30-10:45pm in Tsai Auditorium, 685 Comm Ave

Course Credits: 4.0

SEMINARS:	B1 w/ Klein, <i>sophieik@bu.edu</i>	in CAS 114A TR 8-9:15am
	B2 w/ Klein, <i>sophieik@bu.edu</i>	in EIB 106 TR 11am-12:15pm
	B3 w/ Walsh, <i>bgwalsh@bu.edu</i>	in KCB 201 TR 11am-12:15pm
	B4 w/ Klancer, <i>chudak@bu.edu</i>	in CAS 114B TR 11am-12:15pm
	B5 w/ Klancer, <i>chudak@bu.edu</i>	in CAS 114B TR 12:30-1:45pm
	B6 w/ Hughes, <i>adhughes@bu.edu</i>	in REL 404 TR 12:30-1:45pm
	B7 w/ Appleford, <i>applefor@bu.edu</i>	in EIB 106 TR 2-3:15pm
	B9 w/ Harrington, <i>lharring@bu.edu</i>	in CAS 114B TR 3:30-4:45pm
	C2 w/ Lior, <i>yairlior@bu.edu</i>	in CAS 114A MWF 10:10-11am

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?”

COURSE OBJECTIVES & 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.

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. **Finally, 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 course sites can be accessed via www.learn.bu.edu.

Lecture sessions will be recorded on Echo360 for the benefit of registered students who are unable to attend live sessions (either in person or remotely) due to illness or other special circumstances. Recorded sessions will be made available to registered students via the Blackboard section associated with CAS CC102 A1; access this by logging in at learn.bu.edu or by using the link at bu.edu/core/cc102. Students may not share such sessions with anyone not registered for the course and may not repost them in a public platform.

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%, and 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 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. Group review sessions with both faculty and Core Peer Tutors will be arranged and which students are encouraged to participate in.

Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University

Writing Program. 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.

Writing assignments in CC102 will emphasize the development of your writing skills. Although writing assignments will vary, as described on the syllabi of individual seminar instructors, all students in CC102 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. Core Writing Fellows are graduate students familiar with the works read in the Core who are available to work with you one on one and support you at any stage of the writing process. The 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 assigned WF can be accessed via www.bu.edu/core/writing; appointments can also be made with the at-large and ESL Writing Fellows. Note the office hours of your individual seminar instructor and the specific instructions for utilizing the Writing Fellow attached to your seminar. An online writing handbook is also available at www.bu.edu/core/writing.

Readings. In Core, we prioritize using physical copies of the reading. Books can be purchased through BU's Barnes & Noble, though you will often find much cheaper versions online. are expected to be able to consult readings in class—so make sure that you have them with you in some form (books or print outs) during your seminar section's discussions. If the cost of books presents a problem, please reach out to Prof. Petro, or to our Core director Prof. Kyna Hamill at kyna@bu.edu. We can make sure you get copies of the necessary books.

Over the course of the semester, we will be reading all or much of the following books:

- 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

Be sure to obtain these *specific* editions. In addition to these required books, a set of texts by **Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim** will be distributed in lecture in advance of the March lecture concerning her work. This material can also be accessed in PDF form via www.bu.edu/core/cc102. Note that there are different spelling conventions for this author's name, including among the editions from which we have culled these readings.

COMMUNITY OF LEARNING: CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Accessibility, learning and testing accommodation. We assume that all of us learn in different ways. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please talk to your discussion course leader as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for accommodations that will satisfy both your learning needs and the requirements of the course. The Office of Disability & Access Services is the office responsible for assisting students with disabilities. If you have a disability that interferes with your learning (whether visible or invisible, physical or mental), you are encouraged to register with this office. Disability & Access Services will work with you to determine appropriate accommodations for your courses, such as additional time on tests, staggered homework assignments, or note-taking assistance. This office will give you a

letter outlining the accommodations you need that you will share with your teachers; specific information about your disability will remain private. Letters of accommodation should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course. Contact Disability & Access Services at access@bu.edu and 617-353-3658; learn more at www.bu.edu/disability. Please note that Boston University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

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

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.

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. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct in this course can 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. Your best rule is to make sure you cite every source you employ, using quotation marks and providing citation whenever you use someone else's words. If you have questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people's work, consult the Academic Conduct Code (www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code) or speak with your instructor. 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 BU Code of Student Responsibilities.

CC102 Spring 2022 Schedule of Lectures

Lecture 1, Tues 1/25: Aristotle
Lecturer: David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics*

Lecture 2, Tues 2/1: Confucius
Lecturer: Catherine Klancer (Core)
Reading: *Analects*

Lecture 3, Tues 2/8: Laozi
Lecturer: April Hughes (Religion)
Reading: *Daodejing*

Lecture 4, Tues 2/15: Virgil
Lecturer: Swen Voekel (English)
Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 1-6

Tues 2/22: no lecture – this Tuesday follows a Monday class schedule

Lecture 5, Tues 3/1: Virgil
Lecturer: James Uden (Classics)
Reading: *Aeneid*, Books 7-12

Midterms will be held this week in discussion section.

March 5-13: Spring Break – no classes

Lecture 6, Tues 3/15: Matthew
Lecturer: Jenny Knust (Duke University)
Reading: Gospel of Matthew (RSV)

Lecture 7, Tues 3/22: John
Lecturer: David Frankfurter (Religion)
Reading: Gospel of John (RSV)

Lecture 8, Tues 3/29: Attar
Lecturer: Sassan Tabatabai (Core, World Languages & Literature)
Reading: *Conference of the Birds*

Lecture 9, Tues 4/5: Hrosvitha
Lecturer: Amy Appleford (English)
Readings: Hrosvitha, "Preface to the Dramas", "Her Letter to the Learned Patrons of this Book", *Dulcitus*, and "The Fall and Conversion of Theophilus"; and Anonymous, *Quem Quaeritis*

Lecture 10, Tues 4/12: The Divine Comedy, Part 1
Lecturer: Domenico Pietropaolo (University of Toronto)
Reading: *Inferno*

Tues 4/19: no lecture – this is our "breather" week

Lecture 11, Tues 4/26: The Divine Comedy, Part 2
Lecturer: Kyna Hamill (Core)
Reading: *Purgatorio*

Lecture 12, Tues 5/3: The Divine Comedy, Part 3
Lecturer: Peter Hawkins (Yale University)
Reading: *Paradiso*

May 4 Last Day of Classes
May 5-8 Study Period

Final Exam: Mon 5/9, 9-11 AM in Tsai Auditorium