

CC101: The Ancient World
Fall 2009

Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Avenue
Course Coordinator: David Eckel (Core/Religion)
Coordinator of Student Activities: Kyna Hamill (Core)

Faculty: Franco Cirulli (Core)
Anthony Corsentino (Core/Philosophy)
Abigail Gillman (MLCL)
Kyna Hamill (Core)
Stefan Kalt (Core)
Thornton Lockwood (Core/Philosophy)
Stephanie Nelson (Classics)
Katherine O'Connor (MLCL)
Robert Richardson (MLCL)
David Roochnik (Philosophy)
James Wood (Core)

Core Humanities is a four-semester sequence of courses that explore some of the world's finest and most influential works of literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts. The courses follow a chronological sequence that allows students to look at texts from the perspectives of their authors and original audiences and also to discover the qualities that make them timeless and enduring classics.

The First Semester introduces students to two fundamental components of the Western tradition: the world of the Hebrew Scriptures and the culture of the ancient Greeks. The course also considers the Babylonians and other peoples to whom the Hebrews and Greeks are indebted. Among the topics for the semester are: the character of a hero, the relationship between heroes and ordinary human beings, God or the gods, ancient cities, friendship and love, the meaning of justice. Key issues include: human experience of the divine, war (or man's struggle with human and natural forces whose essence is strife), the development of logos (human reason or cognition) as a response to the divine and to the forces of nature, and the development of art.

Grades will be determined by your seminar professor 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%

Midterm and Final Examinations will be set by the faculty as a whole and given on the dates listed below. Examinations will be based on the lectures, seminars, and readings. They will include factual, short essay, and long essay questions.

Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University Writing Program. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the first-year Core Humanities (CC101 and CC102) receive credit for WR100. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year Core Humanities or the Core Social Sciences (either CC201/202 together or CC203/204 together) receive credit for WR150.

Each seminar will require approximately 20 pages of writing over the course of the semester. Three assignments will be common to all seminars: at least one a summary and commentary paper (2 pages) and at least one thesis-driven paper with an argument analyzing a single work (5 pages). The remainder of the writing assignments will be developed by individual seminar leaders. At least one of the writing assignments will involve the study of selected works of Near Eastern and Classical art in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core office or call 353-5404. The tutors' office is found in the CAS 129.

On the Core website—<http://bu.edu/core>—students will find faculty office hours, reading lists, supplemental course material, a department activity and academic calendar, syllabi, tutor appointment forms and writing FAQs, and other resources.

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. 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.

Required texts are available at the BU Bookstore and are on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. *Gilgamesh*, trans. David Ferry (9780374523831)
2. *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures* (Jewish Publication Society of America, 9780827603660)
3. Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (9780374525743)
4. *Odysseus at Troy: Ajax, Hecuba, and Trojan Women* ed. Stephen Esposito (Focus, 9781585103607)
5. Plato, *The Republic*, trans. Allan Bloom (9780465069347)
6. *The Wadsworth Handbook*, by Kirszner and Mandell (9781413030617)

Schedule of Lectures and Examinations:

- Week 1 (September 8) *Gilgamesh* Professor Jorgensen
 - Week 2 (September 15) *Genesis* Professor Gillman
 - Week 3 (September 22) *Exodus* Professor Eckel
 - Week 4 (September 29) *Job* Professor Wiesel
 - Week 5 (October 6) The Culture & Religion of Ancient Greece Professor Scully
 - Monday, October 12, Columbus Day Holiday
 - No class on Tuesday, October 13 - *substitute Monday class schedule*
 - Week 6 (October 20) *The Odyssey* Professor Esposito
 - Week 7 (October 27) The Art of Classical Greece Professor Kleiner
 - Week 8 (November 3) Sophocles Professor Esposito
 - Week 9 (November 10) Euripides Professor Nelson
 - Week 10 (November 17) Athens in the Fifth Century Professor Samons
 - Week 11 (November 24) *The Republic I* Professor Roochnik
 - Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 25 to Sunday, November 29
 - Week 12 (December 1) *The Republic II* Professor Fried
 - Week 13 (December 8) *The Republic III* Professor Roochnik
 - Last Day of Classes, Friday, December 11
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- Final Examination: Wednesday, December 16, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Tsai Auditorium