

CC 101: The Ancient World

Syllabus

Fall 1999

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tsai Center

Core Professors

Professor James Devlin (Philosophy)	Professor Stephanie Nelson (Classics)
Professor Peter Diamandopoulos (Core)	Professor Allen Speight (Philosophy)
Professor Brian Jorgensen (English)	Professor David Roochnik (Philosophy)
Professor Gregory Fried (Core)	Professor David Green (English)
Professor Robert Richardson (Modern Languages)	Professor Linda Wells (Humanities)
Professor John Newton (English)	Professor Stephen Scully (Classics)
Professor Leah Hochman (Core)	Professor Mark Kremer (Core)
Professor Katherine O'Connor (Modern Languages)	

Course Description: The Humanities Core is a four-semester sequence of courses, each organized around a close study of some of the best and most 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 Humanities Core will acquaint students with two seminal strands of the Western tradition: the Hebrew Scriptures and the world of the ancient Greeks. We shall also consider the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and other peoples to whom the Hebrews and Greeks are indebted. Among the topics to which we shall be attending: the nature of the hero, and the relationship between heroes and the ordinary; God or the gods; ancient cities; the erotic; the meaning of justice. The themes of the course include: human experience of the divine; war--that is, 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--meaning science, technology, and the ability to create alternative experience.

Books: The books you should purchase and read are available at the Boston University Bookstore. The last page of this syllabus provides a list of these books.

Grading: Final grades will be determined by your seminar professor 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 valued in approximately the following proportions:

Midterm exam	10%	Seminar papers	50%
Final exam	25%	Seminar participation	15%

Exams will cover materials in the lectures, seminars, and readings. They will include objective, short essay, and long essay questions. Choices will be offered. Paper topics will be assigned, and papers graded by, seminar instructors.

Core Humanities 1st Semester, CC 101

CAS CC101	A1	Lec	Devlin	TR	9:30-11:00A	TSAI
CAS CC101	A2	Lec	Devlin	TR	9:30-11:00A	TSAI
CAS CC101	B1	Dis	Richardson	MWF	1:00-2:00P	CAS B06A
CAS CC101	B2	Dis	O'Connor	MWF	11:00-12:00P	MUG 203
CAS CC101	B3	Dis	Devlin	M	3:00-6:00P	CAS 424
CAS CC101	B4	Dis	Hochman	TR	12:30-2:00P	CAS B06A
CAS CC101	B5	Dis	Fried	TR	2:00-3:30P	CAS B14
CAS CC101	B6	Dis	Nelson	TR	2:00-3:30P	MCS B31
CAS CC101	B7	Dis	Newton	MWF	1:00-2:00P	CAS B20
CAS CC101	B8	Dis	Hochman	MWF	4:00-5:00P	CAS 204B
CAS CC101	B9	Dis	Kremer	MWF	10:00-11:00A	CAS 235
CAS CC101	C1	Dis	Roochnik	MWF	12:00-1:00P	CAS B14
CAS CC101	C2	Dis	Diamandopoulos	TR	11:00-12:30P	CAS 235
CAS CC101	C3	Dis	Fried	TR	12:30-2:00P	PSY B41
CAS CC101	C4	Dis	Green	TR	12:30-2:00P	CAS B06B
CAS CC101	C5	Dis	Newton	MWF	2:00-3:00P	CAS 315
CAS CC101	C7	Dis	Speight	TR	12:30-2:00P	CAS 228
CAS CC101	C8	Dis	Wells	TR	11:00-12:30P	FLR 133
CAS CC101	C9	Dis	Nelson	W	3:00-6:00P	CAS 225
CAS CC101	D1	Dis	Scully	TR	2:00-3:30P	CAS 315
CAS CC101	D2	Dis	Green	MWF	1:00-2:00P	CAS 204A
CAS CC101	D4	Dis	Richardson	MWF	9:00-10:00A	MCS B31
CAS CC101	D5	Dis	Hochman	MWF	3:00-4:00P	CAS B14
CAS CC101	HP	Lec	Devlin	TR	9:30-11:00P	TSAI
CAS CC101	HS	Dis	Devlin	F	3:00-5:00P	CAS 228

“Life is a series of surprises. We do not guess today the mood, the pleasure, the power of tomorrow, when we are building up our being. Of lower states, of acts of routine and sense, we can tell somewhat, but the total growths and universal movements of the soul are incalculable. I can know that truth is divine and helpful; but how it shall help me I can have no guess, for *so to be* is the sole inlet of *so to know*.” --Ralph Waldo Emerson

We shall not cease from exploration
 And the end of all our exploring
 Will be to arrive where we started
 And know the place for the first time. --T. S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"

Lecture and Exam Schedule

CC 101: The Ancient World
Tsai Center, TR 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, 9/2/99: (1) *Gilgamesh: Two-thirds god*
Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets 1-6

Lecture: Professor Devlin: Introduction to the Core

Tuesday, 9/7/99: (2) *Gilgamesh: One-third mortal*
Reading: Gilgamesh, tablets 7-11

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Who Is Gilgamesh?

Thursday, 9/9/99: (3) *Genesis: Creation, Fall, and Flood*
Reading: Genesis, chapters 1-11

Lecture: Professor Runnels: The Life and Death of Cities in Ancient Mesopotamia

Tuesday, 9/14/99: (4) *Genesis: The Patriarchs*
Reading: Genesis, chapters 12-35

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Introduction to the Book of Genesis

Thursday, 9/16/99: (5) *Samuel: The Coming of Kingship*
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 1-15

Lecture: Professor Nelson: Exodus and Establishment

Tuesday, 9/21/99: (6) *Samuel: David, Jonathan, Saul*
Reading: 1 Samuel, chapters 16-31

Lecture: Professor Devlin: David and Saul

Thursday, 9/23/99: (7) *Samuel: David the young king*
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 1-12

Lecture: Professor Johnson: Coordinating Lecture

Tuesday, 9/28/99: (8) *Samuel: David the old king*
Reading: 2 Samuel, chapters 12-24; 1 Kings, chapters 1-2

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Prophet and King: Who Shall Rule?

Thursday, 9/30/99: (9) *Job*
Reading: Job, chapters 1-28

Lecture: Professors Devlin and Jorgensen: On the Book of Job

Monday, 10/4/99
11:00 a.m.: (10) *Job*
Reading: Job, chapters 28-42

Lecture: Professor Wiesel on the Book of Job

Thursday, 10/7/99: (11) *Homer, The Odyssey: Telemakhos and the Heroes*
Reading: Odyssey, books 1-4

Lecture: Professor Scully on the Greek Gods

Tuesday, 10/12/99: (12) *Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus and the journey home*
Reading: Odyssey, books 5-12

Lecture: Professor Roochnik on The Education of Telemakhos

Thursday, 10/14/99: (13) *Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus, on Ithaka*
Reading: Odyssey, books 13-16

Lecture: Professor Nelson on The Odyssey

Tuesday, 10/19/99: (14) *Homer, The Odyssey: Odysseus, Penelope, and
the death of the suitors*
Reading: Odyssey, books 17-24

Lecture: Professor Scully: The Odyssey of Penelope

- Thursday, 10/21/99: MIDTERM EXAM
- Tuesday, 10/26/99: (15) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, Agamemnon
Lecture: Professor Speight on the Emergence of Tragedy
- Thursday, 10/28/99: (16) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, Agamemnon
Lecture: Professor Lapatin on Greek Art
- Tuesday, 11/2/99: (17) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, The Libation Bearers
Lecture: Professor Scully: On The Libation Bearers
- Thursday, 11/4/99: (18) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, The Eumenides
Lecture: Professor Nelson on The Oresteia
- Tuesday, 11/9/99: (19) Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Reading: Aeschylus, The Oresteia
Lecture: Professor Samons on the History of Greece and Athens
- Thursday, 11/11/99: (20) Plato, The Republic: What is Justice?
Reading: Plato, Republic, Book 1
Lecture: Professor Devlin on Book 1 of The Republic
- Tuesday, 11/16/99: (21) Plato, The Republic: A City in Speech
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 2-3
Lecture: Professor Roochnik: The Republic, Book 2: Philosophy vs. Sophistry
- Thursday, 11/18/99: (22) Plato, The Republic: Perfecting the City
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 4-5
Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Plato on Love, Sex, and Desire

Tuesday, 11/23/99: (23) Plato, *The Republic: The Line and the Cave*
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 6-7

Professors Jorgensen, Patt, Mohr, and Wildman: Integrating Forum

Thursday, 11/25/99: NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING VACATION

Tuesday, 11/30/99: (24) Plato, *The Republic: Beyond Being*
Reading: Plato, Republic, Books 6-7

Lecture: Professor Devlin on Plato's Divided Line

Thursday 12/2/99: (25) Plato, *The Republic: The Five Regimes*
Reading: The Republic, Book 8

Lecture: Professor Roochnik on Plato's Regimes

Tuesday 12/7/99: (26) Plato, *The Republic: The Philosopher and the Tyrant*
Reading: The Republic, Book 9

*Lecture: Professor Speight: The Regime and the Soul: Thinking About
the Structure of The Republic*

Thursday, 12/9/99: (27) Plato, *The Republic: O Fair Democracy*
Reading: The Republic, Books 1-10

Lecture: Professor Jorgensen: Coordinating Lecture: On Justice

Tuesday, 12/14/99: (28) Plato, *The Republic: Saving the Myth*
Reading: The Republic, Book 10

Lecture: Professor Devlin: Platonic Virtue and the Myth of Er

Thursday, 12/16/99: Study Period

Friday, 12/17/99: FINAL EXAM, 12:30 p.m.

CC 101 Core Humanities I Reading List

Fall 1999

Gilgamesh, tr. David Ferry
(New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1992)
ISBN: 0-374-16227-1

The Bible, Revised Standard Version
(New York: New American Library, 1962)
ISBN: 0-452-00647-3

Genesis, chapters 1-35

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings, chapters 1-2

Job

Homer, The Odyssey, tr. Robert Fitzgerald
(New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1998)
ISBN 0-374-52574-9

Aeschylus, The Oresteia, tr. Robert Fagles
(New York: Penguin, 1975)
ISBN: 0-14-04333-9

Plato, The Republic, tr. Allan Bloom
(New York: Basic Books (HarperCollins), 1968)
ISBN: 0-465-06934-7

Gilgamesh Glossary
Page Three

Nergal: Lord of the underworld, of the dead. Consort of Ereshkigal.

New Year's Holiday: the day on which the relationship between mankind, gods, and the cosmos is reaffirmed through feasting, ritual, recalling of the origins of things and the nature of things. A day of cosmic and civic renewal, not for change and progress but for stability and perpetuity.

Ninsun: Divine wife of Lugalbanda, priestess, mother of Gilgamesh. Wild Cow; Lady; All-Knowing.

Ninurta: God of war; of chaos; of silence.

Nisir: the name of the mountain where Utnapishtim's ark came to land.

Rimat-Ninsun: See Ninsun.

Shamash: Sun god, a god who "hates evil," a god of light and distance. The god who sponsors Gilgamesh and Enkidu's killing of Huwawa. A god with a "higher idea," but still one god among many.

Shamhat: the harlot or temple prostitute who tames Enkidu, isolates him from the animals, and brings him to Uruk.

Shullat: Herald of the storm-god Adad. Name sounds like wind and early rain.

Shuruppak: an ancient city; most fortunate; god favored; destroyed by the gods' great Flood during the kingship of Utnapishtim.

Siduri: a divine tavern-keeper on the shore of the ocean at the end of the world (the waters of death). Perhaps brews beer in a great golden vat.

Sin: God of the moon.

Sin-leqi-unninni: An exorcist priest who apparently lived in Uruk in the Middle Babylonian period (1600-1000 B.C.) and who seems to have produced the epic of Gilgamesh that we read today.

Sumuqan: God of cattle. Enkidu is compared to him, and he is also seen in Enkidu's dream of the underworld.

Gilgamesh Glossary

Page Four

Tammuz: the dying and rising vegetation god, husband and lover of Ishtar.

Ubartutu: Father of Utnapishtim; king of Shuruppak.

Urshanabi: Boatman who lives on an island far out in the ocean, who takes Gilgamesh across the waters of death and later returns with Gilgamesh to Uruk.

Uruk: A great, ancient, and sacred city on the Euphrates River. Its plan was given by the Seven Sages, who were instructed by the gods (particularly Ea) in the arts of civilization. Gilgamesh is the *en*, that is, the priest-king, the religious leader and political ruler of Uruk.

Utnapishtim: Once king of the ancient city of Shuruppak. The one human being who survived the Flood. Ea told him of the Flood and instructed him in the building of an Ark. After the Flood, the gods made Utnapishtim and his wife immortal.

ziggurat: stepped tower atop which sacrifices to the gods were performed.

Glossary for Gilgamesh

Adad: god of the storm with a name like thunder.

Akkadian: A Semitic language, the source language of our version of Gilgamesh which comes from the court library of Ashubarnipal of Assyria around 600 B.C. Archaeologists discovered the library in Niniveh. Versions of Gilgamesh or stories later included in the late version also appear in Sumerian, Ancient, Middle, and New Babylonian, and Hittite.

Annunaki: sons of Anu. They are the greatest of the gods. In particular, seven of the fifty Annunaki were those who established and could change the laws of being.

Anu: Father of the gods, god of sky. He shares the temple in Uruk with his daughter, Ishtar.

Apsu: the great abyss of waters beneath the earth, dwelling-place of Ea.

Aruru: the mother goddess who created mankind. See also Mammetum.

Belit-Seri: Female scribe of the underworld.

Bull of Heaven: a great beast bringing famine and earthquake, let loose by Ishtar.

cuneiform: the word means "wedge-shaped," and is used to describe the script in which languages from Sumerian to Akkadian were written. Cuneiform signs are created by pressing the tip of a reed stylus into clay. Over its 3000-year history, it was developed from a pictographic to logographic to syllabic set of signs.

Ea: The trickster god who reveals the coming of the Flood to Utnapishtim. God of the city of Eridu, and of the Apsu (q.v.), a great underground sea.

Enkidu: friend of Gilgamesh, created by the goddess Aruru in response to the prayers of Gilgamesh's people. Enkidu begins as a creature of the wild, ignorant of civilization.

Enlil: the Storm God, Wind God, God of Destiny, god of the city of Shuruppak. One of the most powerful and prominent of the gods.

Ereshkigal: Queen of the underworld, of the dead.

Gilgamesh Glossary
Page Two

Etana: seen in the underworld, a former king and favorite of Ishtar. He sought a magical "plant of birth." Carried to heaven by an eagle, but fell back to earth.

Euphrates: One of the two great rivers of Mesopotamia, the Tigris being the other. Uruk is on the Euphrates.

The Flood: An event already ancient by Gilgamesh's time, in which the gods, for reasons variously given, tried to wipe out the city of Shuruppak and thereby all living things.

Gilgamesh: Priest-king of Uruk, recorded in Sumerian king-lists as ruling around 2700 B.C.

Hanish: Herald of the storm-god Adad. Name sounds like strong wind.

Harlot, temple prostitute: a servant or priestess of the goddess Ishtar. See Shamhat.

Huwawa: Giant divine being appointed by Enlil to guard the cedar forest; terrible, delicate, changing, overwhelming. Also called Humbaba.

Igigi: The lesser gods.

Irkalla: the underworld, place of darkness, death, the underworld gods.

Irnini: a name for Ishtar.

Ishtar: Goddess of Love, Nature, War. Shares the temple in Uruk with her father, the god Anu.

Ishullanu: gardener of the god Anu, one of Ishtar's lovers.

Lapis lazuli: precious stone of a deep opaque blue.

Lugalbanda: A great hero-king of Uruk; father of Gilgamesh.

Mammetum: The mother goddess, who also established life and death. One of the seven most powerful Annunaki. Also called Aruru.

Mashu: twin-headed mountain at the end of the world. The sun rises from the eastern peak and goes down through the western peak.