

"ALL HUMAN BEINGS BY NATURE DESIRE TO KNOW" - ARISTOTLE

# The Core

A BU TRADITION  
SINCE 1989



**A Community of Learning.** The Core Curriculum in BU's College of Arts & Sciences is made up of faculty and students who place a high value on liberal education and the active exchange of ideas.

Through small, interdisciplinary courses and related co-curricular activities our students and faculty engage in a shared conversation about the classic texts and fundamental ideas that have shaped our world.

Core welcomes students from all majors and is built around the idea that we all benefit when each student and faculty member brings his or her own perspective and experience to bear on the questions raised. Our aim is that students from all majors, and those who have not yet decided on

a concentration, can develop the larger perspective necessary for creative and innovative thought in their particular field.

An essential element of the Core program is that students and faculty share a common body of classic texts, fundamental questions, and critical ideas. This shared experience enables conversation to extend beyond individual classes and to link the entire curriculum as well as the students, staff and alumni of Core. >>

DARE TO KNOW

In 1784, philosopher Immanuel Kant suggested the phrase "dare to know" as a motto for the Enlightenment.

For more information visit [www.bu.edu/core/admissions](http://www.bu.edu/core/admissions)

BOSTON  
UNIVERSITY

## The Core Faculty.

The opportunity to teach in the Core attracts some of the most distinguished scholars on the BU faculty. These include department chairs, winners of our highest teaching awards, and experts renowned in their field.

Our instructors come from a wide range of academic disciplines but share a love of teaching and an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Given Core's grounding in faculty-led seminars, these are teachers who students will get to know personally from day one.

Find a list of current and past instructors at [www.bu.edu/core/people](http://www.bu.edu/core/people).

## The Core Classes.

In the Core classroom, we engage with classic works as we develop critical skills in thinking, discussion and writing. In addition to discussion seminar, Core

students meet in weekly plenary lecture sessions to hear experts from BU and other world-class institutions articulate significant aspects of the works and ideas being studied in the course.

Core courses are designed to be interdisciplinary. Such complex questions considered in Core include: How do religion and science each account for human origins? What is the nature of scientific "truth"? Is the individual fundamentally in conflict or in harmony with society? And, what is the human relationship to nature?

Current course descriptions can be found at [www.bu.edu/core/courses](http://www.bu.edu/core/courses).

## Core with Honors.

The Core Honors program allows interested and qualified students to achieve additional command of the material and techniques addressed in Core by conducting in-depth research in an area that interests them.

In addition to course and GPA requirements, the Honors program involves the creation and defense of a substantial paper or project that relates material in a course outside of Core to the Core program, or which bridges subject

matter from at least two Core courses. Students who complete these requirements will earn an Honors annotation on their official transcript.

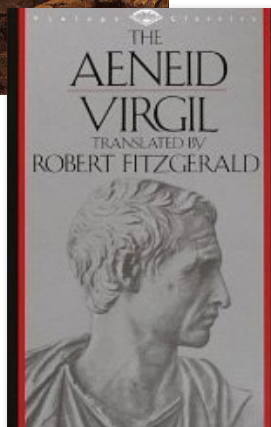
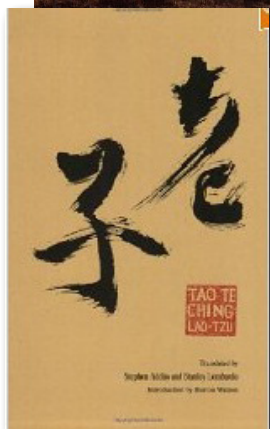
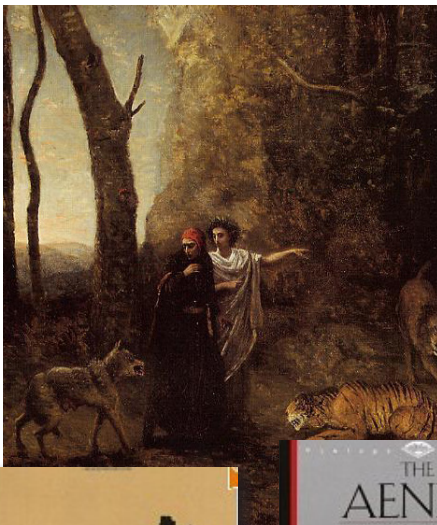
Core Honors projects, in whatsoever discipline may be **eligible for UROP research funding**. Students interested in Core Honors can email [core@bu.edu](mailto:core@bu.edu); our staff will put you in touch with the faculty advisor for Honors students.

## Core Minor Pathways.

Students may complete a **Core Minor in Liberal Arts** by taking CC 101 & 102 and any four other Core courses. The distinct **Independent Core Minor** enables students to explore more deeply any of the engaging questions they first encountered in their Core classes. By taking courses in different disciplines, students obtain greater depth for their study of the texts, works of art, music, and key ideas of the cultural traditions treated in Core, all under the close supervision of a faculty mentor. Students can visit [www.bu.edu/core/minor](http://www.bu.edu/core/minor) for more information.

## Core Benefits

- Small seminar classes averaging fifteen students
- An integrated curriculum, led by award-winning faculty drawn from departments across the University
- A focus on classic texts, ideas and discoveries of enduring importance
- Optional Core specialty housing
- Scholarships for study trips to Athens, Greece and Florence, Italy
- Student-led cultural initiatives, including an annual literary journal, film series, and our SAO-approved undergraduate society



"I SIT WITH SHAKESPEARE & HE WINCES NOT" - DU BOIS





## A Learning Community.

A true learning community, Core welcomes students from all academic majors, and is an ideal home for those who are still exploring various fields of study. Learning in Core is designed to extend beyond the classroom and throughout a student's years at BU. Co-curricular opportunities for students enrolled in Core include:

- Leadership opportunities to serve as peer tutors, publication editors, student group officers, and resident advisors.
- Recognition through divisional awards (for academic excellence), the Devlin Award (for excellence in writing) and the Polytropos Award (for seniors).
- Cultural engagement, with trips to the MFA, the Boston Ballet, the American Repertory Theater, and other landmark arts institutions in Boston.

## How to Join the Core.

Students register for Core courses online, in the same way they would for classes from any other department. However, we ask incoming new students to reserve a seat in Core by submitting an **online reservation form** available between April and August. This gives us the chance to connect new students with current students and faculty, to answer questions and prepare you for the fall.

**Most new students** submit their reservation form *before* registering for classes. (First-year students typically take CC 101 and CC 111 in the fall semester.) **Current students** are able to join Core for one or more classes at any point during their time at BU, whether to earn elective credit, satisfy Hub requirements, or just to partake in the Core seminar experience.

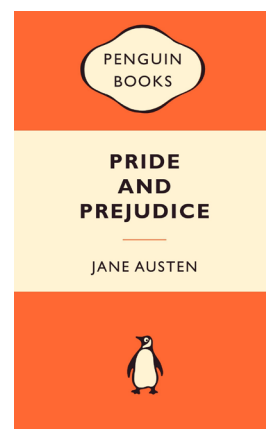
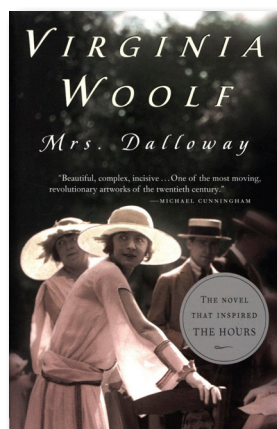
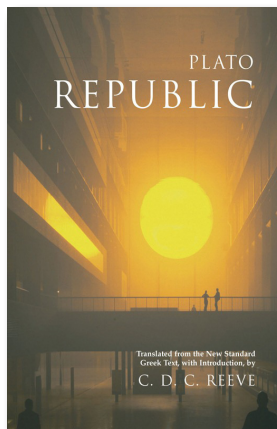
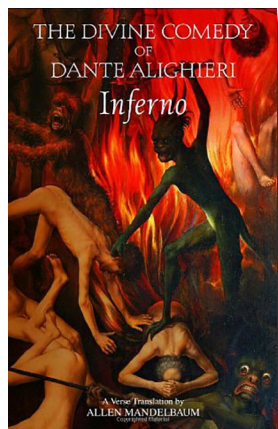
## Are you ready to reserve your seat in the Core?

You've now learned a bit about what makes the Core Curriculum a distinctive learning pathway: Hub compatability; integrated, interdisciplinary courses; seminar-based teaching; close contact with faculty; and minor and honors pathways, all built around a syllabus of classic works and essential ideas.

If you think all that sounds like the right kind of community for you, let us know that you'd like to request a place in Core for next semester:

**[www.bu.edu/core/reserve](http://www.bu.edu/core/reserve)**

*Reservation forms are reviewed on a rolling basis. Reservation requests do not commit you to Core enrollment.*



**"I BROUGHT YOU HERE BY INTELLECT & ART; NOW LET PLEASURE BE YOUR GUIDE" - DANTE**

# Core Classes & Co-curriculars

## First-Year Classes, Fall Semester

**CC 101**, "Ancient Worlds." Humanities I; *satisfies Hub units 1b (AEX), 4b (GCI) and 6d (CRI)*.

**C 111**, "Origins: The Big Bang, Earth, Life, and Humanity." Natural Sciences I; *satisfies Hub units 2a (SI1), 3a (QR1), and 6c (TWC)*.

## First-Year Classes, Spring Semester

**CC 102**, "The Way: From Antiquity to the Medieval World." Humanities II; *satisfies Hub units 5a (FYW) and 5d (OSC)*.

**CC 112**, "Religion, Community, and the Birth of the Social Sciences." Social Sciences I; *satisfies Hub units 2b (SO1), 4b (GCI), and 6a (CRT)*.

## Second-Year Classes, Fall Semester

**CC 201**, "Renaissance, Rediscovery, and Reformation." Humanities III; *satisfies Hub units 5b (WRI) and 6b (RIL)*.

**CC 211**, "Power, Political Forms, and Economics." Social Sciences II; *satisfies Hub units 1c (HCO), 2c (SI2), and 5c (WIN)*.

## Second-Year Classes, Spring Semester

**CC 202**, "From the Enlightenment to Modernity." Humanities IV; *satisfies Hub units 1a (PLM), 4c (ETC), and 5c (WIN)*.

**CC 212**, "Reality, Science, and the Modern World." Natural Sciences II; *satisfies Hub units 2c (SI2), 3b (QR2), and 6a (CRT)*.

**In addition to these eight primary courses, Core has developed several auxiliary options to let students pursue their passion and earn additional Hub credits:**

**CAS CC 220/320**, "Multimedia Encounters with Core Texts." Students explore how a particular Core work has been adapted, and create new digital/multimedia interpretations of the work to be published online. *Two credits; satisfies Hub unit 5e (DME)*.

**CAS CC 350**, "Core Capstone." This is the required thesis/project workshop for students completing a Core Minor. *Two credits*.

**HUB CC 181 and 182**: "The Core Docent Program." Students receive arts education training and curate their own tour of a local arts, cultural or historic institution. Offered in fall or spring; students enrolled in one semester serve as docents in the next semester. *Non-credit co-curricular; satisfies Hub unit 4a (IIC)*.

**HUB CC 192**: "The Core Journal." Students learn editing and design practices while considering social dimensions of publishing as they produce an issue of our annual student-led journal. *Spring only; non-credit co-curricular; satisfies Hub unit 4a (IIC)*.

The most up-to-date course descriptions and syllabi can be accessed information at [www.bu.edu/core/courses](http://www.bu.edu/core/courses).



## Frequently Asked Questions

### *How does Core work with the BU Hub?*

Core is one of the ways students can complete the Hub, since Core courses carry Hub units (as well, they satisfy the requirements for writing proficiency. For some majors, Core courses even carry credit equivalency for certain required courses!) Students may take *all* of Core to satisfy *all* their Hub requirements, or can use individual Core courses to satisfy particular requirements. Students who take only part of the Core can satisfy their remaining Hub requirements with courses from other departments. For more information about Hub and Core, please visit [www.bu.edu/core/hub](http://www.bu.edu/core/hub).

### *Do I have to take all of Core to participate?*

No! Some students take all the Core classes available to them; others use Core to complement their major and other interests, or even take just one or two Core classes. That sort of flexibility is available to any student at BU wishing to make Core part of their undergraduate experience. Students who complete the 8 main Core courses earn the "Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences" designation on their transcript. Note: For natural sciences majors (e.g. Biology), the Core natural science courses are optional to their completion of the program.

### *How many Core classes will I take each semester?*

Core courses build on one another and are designed to work together, so that students take up to two Core classes per semester over the course of their first two years, satisfying their Hub and writing requirements early on. However, this suggested schedule is not mandatory; Core courses can be taken in any semester during a student's time at BU. Some students spread Core courses out across four years of study, and students who elect to pursue Core Honors or the Core Minors may dedicate time in their junior or senior years satisfying these pathways. ■