

****THE COMPREHENSIVE COURSE SYLLABUS IS ON THE BLACKBOARD PAGE****

**BUI 101 - Foundations: Origins
Fall 2019**

**BUI 101-[section number]; 3 credit hours
Tuesday and Thursday [time]
Blount Living Learning Center [room number]**

Senior Fellow: [field]
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Culture and nature are not merely the spaces we inhabit, they are the principal objects of human reflection and interpretation, or should be. This year-long course uses a survey of influential texts in philosophy, science, religion, political theory, and literature produced in the West over three millennia to provide students with an introductory practicum in the interpretation of culture and nature. Within this framework, more specific concepts to be explored will include the nature of society, the nature of the individual, the nature of government and justice as regulatory mechanisms between the two, the nature of power in its various forms, the concept of nature itself, and America as a social experiment in which these concepts are continually interpreted and reinterpreted.

Required Texts

See the course listing in MyBama for edition information. Please buy the specified edition.

Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*
Camus, *The Stranger*
Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

Plato, *The Trials of Socrates*
Wilson, *In Search of Nature*
Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

A course-packet (CP) that contains other readings will be available only at the University Supply Store. A copy of St. Augustine's *Confessions* will be provided to all students. Several packets containing copies of all texts that are within the public domain (PD) will be provided to students. One reading is available as a weblink through Blackboard (Bb).

Core Curriculum Credit: In addition to fulfilling 6 semester hours of the Blount minor, BUI 101 and 102 count as Core Curriculum general studies credit. BUI 101 fulfills 3 hours of Humanities requirements and BUI 102 fulfills 3 hours of Social and Behavioral requirements. The two courses together satisfy the requirement for a sequence of courses in either literature or history. Both courses count toward Honors.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe the major ideas of the authors they read;
2. compare and contrast the ideas among multiple authors in analytical papers;
3. synthesize the ideas of authors from multiple genres and time periods;
4. assess how the ideas they read relate to human civilizations both past and present;
5. practice using the ideas through debate and discussion.

Attendance Policy

- You are permitted 3 unexcused absences. These are best saved in case of sickness.
- All unexcused absences thereafter affect your participation grade.
- Leaving class early or arriving late may be counted as absent at the instructor's discretion.
- Asleep in class, except in cases of documented illness, will count as absent.
- Students are responsible for maintaining their own attendance records and providing excuses.
- The Office of Student Care and Well-Being (348-2461) will help you in the event of a serious problem that affects your ability to come to class.

Grading Policy

Long Essay 1	10%
Long Essay 2	15%
Long Essay 3	20%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation	15%
Short Essays (average of all)	20%

The final grades for the class will be calculated with the following ranges:

A+ = 97-100 A = 93-96 A- = 90-92 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82 (and so on...)

Participation Expectations

We will evaluate your participation based on quantity and quality:

A = participate often and constructively

B = participate sometimes or not always constructively

C = participate very little or not constructively

D = rarely participate or disrupt the discussion

F = never participate

Long Essays

The purpose of the long essay is to formulate a logical argument concerning the texts you have read and to support it with textual evidence. Senior fellows will provide topics for each essay. Your long essay will be written using MLA format and be 1500-1750 words long. It will follow the guidelines and be graded using the rubric provided by your senior fellow. All long essays are due through Turnitin on the dates found in the syllabus.

You may choose to revise one of the first two long essays in order to replace your grade. Revision means that you address your professor's comments about your paper. It may entail rewriting some sections entirely or other large changes. If you are not sure what you need to do, talk to your professor. In order to revise, you must have turned in an essay. If you submit a partial essay, you cannot revise it into a complete essay. The purpose of the revision is to improve writing skills. That purpose is defeated if your original draft is incomplete. If your professor grades paper copies, your revision must be accompanied by all previously graded drafts of the essay and rubrics you have received. The revision is due within two weeks of the day you receive your graded essay.

Short Essays

The purpose of the weekly short essay is to demonstrate an understanding and conduct an analysis of the text assigned for the day the essay is submitted. Short essay due dates can be found on the syllabus. The short essays are due through Turnitin at 8:00 am regardless of your section or the day you submit it. You must write about one of the readings that are assigned for the day you turn it in. If multiple readings are assigned for one day, you may write about more than one if you so choose. Short essays

will be in MLA format and 400-700 words long. Your essay will follow the guidelines and be graded using the rubric provided by your senior fellow.

Your lowest short-essay grade will be dropped at the end of the semester, including a failing grade for not turning one in. You will also have the option of revising one of your short essays. Revision means that you address your junior fellow's comments about your paper. It may entail rewriting some sections entirely or other large changes. If you are not sure what you need to do, talk to your junior fellow. In order to revise, you must have turned in an essay. If you submit a partial essay, you cannot revise it into a complete essay. The purpose of the revision is to improve writing skills. That purpose is defeated if your original draft is incomplete. If you are not sure what you need to do, talk to your junior fellow. You have one week from the time the essay was returned to you to resubmit it for an entirely new grade.

Comprehensive Final Exam

The comprehensive examination consists of three essays that students write during the two-and-a-half-hour examination period. On the Monday of Dead Week, you will receive nine questions to prepare. On the day of the exam, four of the nine questions will be selected at random. You will then choose three of the four questions to answer. In your response to each question you are required to use three different authors, meaning that you will use at least nine different authors on the exam overall. You will receive a rubric for the final that details the grading criteria.

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

Late Essay Policy

You are expected to turn in both short and long essays before the due date and time. Any late essay will be penalized 10 points for each day it is late (weekend days count too). If you choose to revise a late essay, the same number of points will be deducted from the revision as were deducted from the original late essay. It is your responsibility to check the Turnitin page to be certain that your essay has been submitted.

Missed Exam Policy

If you miss the final exam, you must provide documentation for that absence. If you are permitted a make-up, you will schedule it with your senior fellow.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official [Code of Academic Conduct](#) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement on Disability Accommodations

Contact the [Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Assignment (Read each work in the order it appears)	Due Dates
	Knowledge and Truth	
Thur., Aug. 22	Plato, "The Apology," in <i>The Trials of Socrates</i>	
Tue., Aug. 27	Plato, "Crito," in <i>The Trials of Socrates</i>	Group A short essay 1
Thur., Aug. 29	Augustine, Books I-III in <i>Confessions</i>	Group B short essay 1
Tue., Sept. 3	Augustine, Books IV-VI in <i>Confessions</i>	Group A short essay 2
Thur., Sept. 5	Augustine, Books VII-VIII in <i>Confessions</i>	Group B short essay 2
Tue., Sept. 10	Galileo, "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina" (CP)	Group A short essay 3
Thur., Sept. 12	Euclid, Book 1 of <i>The Elements of Euclid</i> (PD) Nakayasu, "Morning Song" (PD) Cárdenas, "Calculations" (CP)	Group B short essay 3
Tue., Sept. 17	Descartes, Parts 1-4 and 6 of <i>Discourse on the Method...</i> (PD)	
Thur., Sept. 19	Nietzsche, "On Truth and Falsity..." (PD) Wilson, "Bird of Paradise" in <i>In Search of Nature</i>	
Fri., Sept. 20		Long Essay 1
Tue., Sept. 24	Camus, Part 1 of <i>The Stranger</i>	Group A short essay 4
Thur., Sept. 26	Camus, Part 2 of <i>The Stranger</i>	Group B short essay 4
	Human Nature	
Tue. Oct. 1	Darwin, "On the tendency of species..." (PD) Turcotte "Short Story of Human Evolution" (Bb)	Group A short essay 5
Thur., Oct. 3	Bible, <i>Genesis</i> (CP)	Group B short essay 5
Tue. Oct. 8	Wilson, "The Serpent" in <i>In Search of Nature</i> Trethewey, "South" (CP)	Group A short essay 6
Thur., Oct. 10	Edelman, "Memory and the Individual Soul" (CP) Lowell, "My Last Afternoon with Uncle Devereux Winslow" (CP)	Group B short essay 6
Tue. Oct. 15	Tallerman and Gibson, "Introduction: The Evolution of Language" (CP) Anzaldúa, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" (CP)	
Thur., Oct. 17	Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask" (PD) DuBois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" (PD) Cullen, "Yet Do I Marvel" (CP)	
Fri., Oct. 18		Long Essay 2
	Society	
Tue. Oct. 22	Benedict, "The Science of Custom" and "The Integration of Culture" in <i>Patterns of Culture</i>	Group A short essay 7
Thur. Oct. 24	Wilson, "Culture as a Biological Product" in <i>In Search of Nature</i>	Group B short essay 7
Tue. Oct. 29	Smith, Book I, Chapters 1,2,7,8 of <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> (PD)	
Thur., Oct. 31	Fall Break	

Tue., Nov. 5	Smith, Book 4, Ch. 2 and Book 5, Ch. 1, Part 3, Article 2 (PD) Marx, "Wage Labor and Capital" (PD)	Group A short essay 8
Thur., Nov. 7	Marx, Sections I, II, and IV of <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (PD)	Group B short essay 8
Tue., Nov. 12	Mill, Chapters 1 and 2 of <i>On Liberty</i> (PD)	Group A short essay 9
Thur., Nov. 14	Mill, Chapter 4 of <i>On Liberty</i> (PD)	Group B short essay 9
Tue., Nov. 19	Woolf, Chapters 1-4 of <i>A Room of One's Own</i>	
Thur., Nov. 21	Woolf, Chapters 5-6 of <i>A Room of One's Own</i> Walker, "On Being Female, Black, and Free" (CP)	
Fri., Nov. 22		Long Essay 3
Tue., Nov. 26	Freud, Chapters 1-3 of <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>	
Thur., Nov. 28	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Tues., Dec. 3	Freud, Chapters 4-8 of <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>	
Thur., Dec. 5	Exam prep	
[Date]	[Time]	Final Exam