

BUI 102 - Foundations: Possibilities
Spring 2019 Syllabus

BUI 102-[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.

Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Plato, <i>The Republic</i>
Camus, <i>The Stranger</i>	Plato, <i>The Trials of Socrates</i>
Berger, <i>Ways of Seeing</i>	Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>
Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	Wilson, <i>In Search of Nature</i>
Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>	Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i>
Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i>	BUI 102 course-pack (CP)

A course-packet (CP) that contains other readings will be available only at the University Supply Store. Several of the texts are available as documents or links on the Blackboard (Bb) course content page.

Course Description: A text-centered exploration of major questions that integrate liberal arts education and form the basis of the Blount Scholars Program. Emphasis is on significant issues in the discourse on human possibilities. Three credit hours.

Course prerequisite: Membership in the Blount Scholars Program is a prerequisite for both BUI 101 and BUI 102. Ordinarily, BUI 101 is the prerequisite for BUI 102.

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. outline the ideas of the various authors we read.
2. demonstrate an understanding of multiple social structures.
3. combine the author's ideas from multiple time periods throughout Western Civilization and synthesize them in writing.
4. devise their own hypotheses about the historical ideas they study.
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 rewrite one of the first two long essays in order to replace your grade. Your rewrite must be accompanied by all previously graded drafts of the essay and rubric scores you have received. The rewrite 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 rewriting one of your short essays. You have one week from the time the essay was returned to you to resubmit it for an entirely new grade. You must turn in the original, marked paper and rubric along with your rewrite.

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 rewrite a late essay, the same number of points will be deducted from the rewrite 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.

Use of Turnitin Software

The University of Alabama is committed to helping students uphold the ethical standards of academic integrity in all areas of study. Students agree that their enrollment in this course allows the instructor the right to use electronic devices to help prevent plagiarism. All course materials are subject to submission to Turnitin.com for the purpose of detecting textual similarities. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Turnitin.com will be used as a source document to help students avoid plagiarism in written documents.

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.

UAct: Ethical Community Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The [UAct website](#) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud. The [UAct website](#) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the [UAct website](#).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at [Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines](#).

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest [Severe Weather Guidelines](#) 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 Reading Schedule

Date	Reading	
Thurs., Jan. 10	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , 327a-347d; 351a-354b; 368a-376c	
Tues., Jan. 15	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , 425b-445e; 449e-461e	
Thurs., Jan. 17	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , 471c-487a; 502d-521b	
Tues., Jan. 22	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , 595a-621c	
Thurs., Jan. 24	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise on Government</i> , Chapters 1-4 (CP)	
Tues., Jan. 29	Locke, Chapter 5 (CP) Brown, <i>Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee</i> Chapter 1 (pg. 1-13)	
Thurs., Jan. 31	Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence (CP) Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream" (CP)	
Tues., Feb. 5	Abigail Adams, Selected Letters to John Adams (CP) James Madison, "Federalist 10" (CP)	
Thurs., Feb. 7	Jefferson, selection from <i>Notes on the State of Virginia</i> (CP)	

	Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America" and "To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth"	
		Essay 1 due
Tues., Feb. 12	Alexis de Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , Chapters 6 and 7 (CP)	
Thurs., Feb. 14	Walt Whitman, <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (CP)	
Tues., Feb. 19	Gonzales, Rodolfo Corky, "I Am Joaquin" Harjo, "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings"	
Thurs., Feb. 21	Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> , Ch. 1-13 (skip 3 and 8)	
Tues., Feb. 26	Jacobs, Ch. 14-end (skip 22, 23, 31, 34, and 38)	
Thurs., Feb. 28	Faulkner, "The Bear," from <i>Go Down, Moses</i> , sections 1-3	
Tues., Mar. 5	Faulkner, "The Bear," section 4	
Thurs., Mar. 7	Faulkner, "The Bear," section 5 Brooks, "To the Diaspora" (poem in CP)	
		Essay 2 due
March 12-14	<i>Spring break</i>	
Tues., Mar. 19	Lai, Lim, and Yung, <i>Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940</i> (selections in CP) Mori, Toshio, "Tomorrow is Coming, Children"	
Thurs., Mar. 21	King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (CP) Malcolm X, "The Ballot or The Bullet" (CP)	
Tues., Mar. 26	Valdez, Louis, "Los Vendidos"	
Thurs., Mar. 28	John Berger, <i>Ways of Seeing</i> Preface, Chapters 1-4 Elizabeth Bishop, "The Fish" (CP)	
Tues., Apr. 2	Berger, Chapters 5-7	
Thurs., Apr. 4	Toni Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> "Autumn" and "Winter"	
Tues., Apr. 9	Toni Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> "Spring" and "Summer"	
Thurs., Apr. 11	Brass, "A Indelible Mark" Tolbert, "Speaking in Tongues"	
Tues., Apr. 16	Nayeri, "The Ungrateful Refugee" Tran, "A Refugee Again"	
Thurs., Apr. 18	Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , Chapters 1-25	
		Essay 3 due
Tues., Apr. 23	Atwood, Chapters 26-46 and "Historical Notes"	
Thurs., Apr. 25	Atwood or final exam prep	
[Date]	[Time]	Final Exam