The Epic

In this course we will study epic texts which are central to the literary and cultural traditions of various regions and peoples of the world. As an introduction to the study of the Humanities, this course will help you develop your skills in textual analysis, independent critical thinking, and expository writing. As a course on literature, it will pay particular attention to issues such as narrative structure, verse form, performativity and poetic devices, but also to the question of how literature might matter for our lives here and now. As a course that aims to address world literatures, this class will focus on ways in which texts from different cultural backgrounds articulate the cultural values, existential anxieties, and power structures of the societies that produced them.

Course Readings:
The following books should be purchased. Copies are available at the Seminary COOP bookstore:

4. Instructor’s Choice
**Course Calendar:**

**Week 1**
- September 28, Mon: Introduction
- September 30, Wed: Gilgamesh

**Week 2**
- October 5, Mon: Gilgamesh
- October 7, Wed: Gilgamesh

**Week 3**
- October 12, Mon: Gilgamesh
  - *Gilgamesh Assignment due and Paper #1 assigned*
- October 14, Wed: Gilgamesh

**Week 4**
- October 19, Mon: Odyssey
- October 21, Wed: Odyssey

**Week 5**
- October 26, Mon: Odyssey
- October 28, Wed: Odyssey

**Week 6**
- November 2, Mon: Odyssey
  - *Paper #1 (Odyssey) due and Paper #2 (Mahabharata) assigned*
- November 4, Wed: Mahabharata

**Week 7**
- November 9, Mon: Mahabharata
- November 11, Wed: Mahabharata

**Week 8**
- November 16, Mon: Mahabharata
- November 18, Wed: Mahabharata
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
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<td><strong>Paper #2 due and Paper #3 assigned</strong></td>
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