Instructor: Donald Dickson  
Course: 221  
Title: Masterpieces of World Literature

**Description:** The aim of this course is to introduce you to some masterworks of world literature and the civilizations that produced them; to understand and appreciate their artistic quality and individual styles; to compare other cultures and historical periods; and to appreciate how ideas, events, and literatures have influenced one another. Of necessity we will focus on historical contexts and the cultural values of these societies as an essential part of the background to the works. In addition to improving your critical reading skills, you will also have the opportunity to improve your writing skills through essay exams.

**Proposed Readings:** In The Norton Anthology of World Literature, we will read Gilgamesh, Homer's Odyssey, Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Virgil's Aeneid, Augustine's Confessions, from the Qur'an, Abolqasem Ferdowsi's "Sekandar," Dante's "Inferno," and Petrarch's sonnets.