In this course we will study the major literary modes, synthesizing our understanding of a number of cultures through classroom discussion and writing. We will discuss the social and cultural influences upon texts, and, in turn, the influences these texts have had upon our own and other cultures. Joining in class discussions, students will participate in the ongoing dialogue about many of the intellectual and emotional issues that our relentless pursuit of knowledge has complicated. **There is no textbook required for this course as we will be using Open Education Resources (OER).**