

COMP S-109. Reality, Desire, and the Epic Form: Homer, Dante, and Joyce (CRN: 31482)

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The relation of desire and reality has been a constant topic in literature. The most comprehensive and influential treatments of that relation have come in the epic, which presents the real and the longed for as the poles organizing civilization and individual experience. This class will be a close reading of Homer's *Odyssey*, Dante's *Commedia*, and Joyce's *Ulysses*, to see how epic presentation of human love and knowledge, especially metaphoric depiction of these as journeys, has changed and stayed the same from the ancient to the modern world.