Questions or feedback are always welcome.

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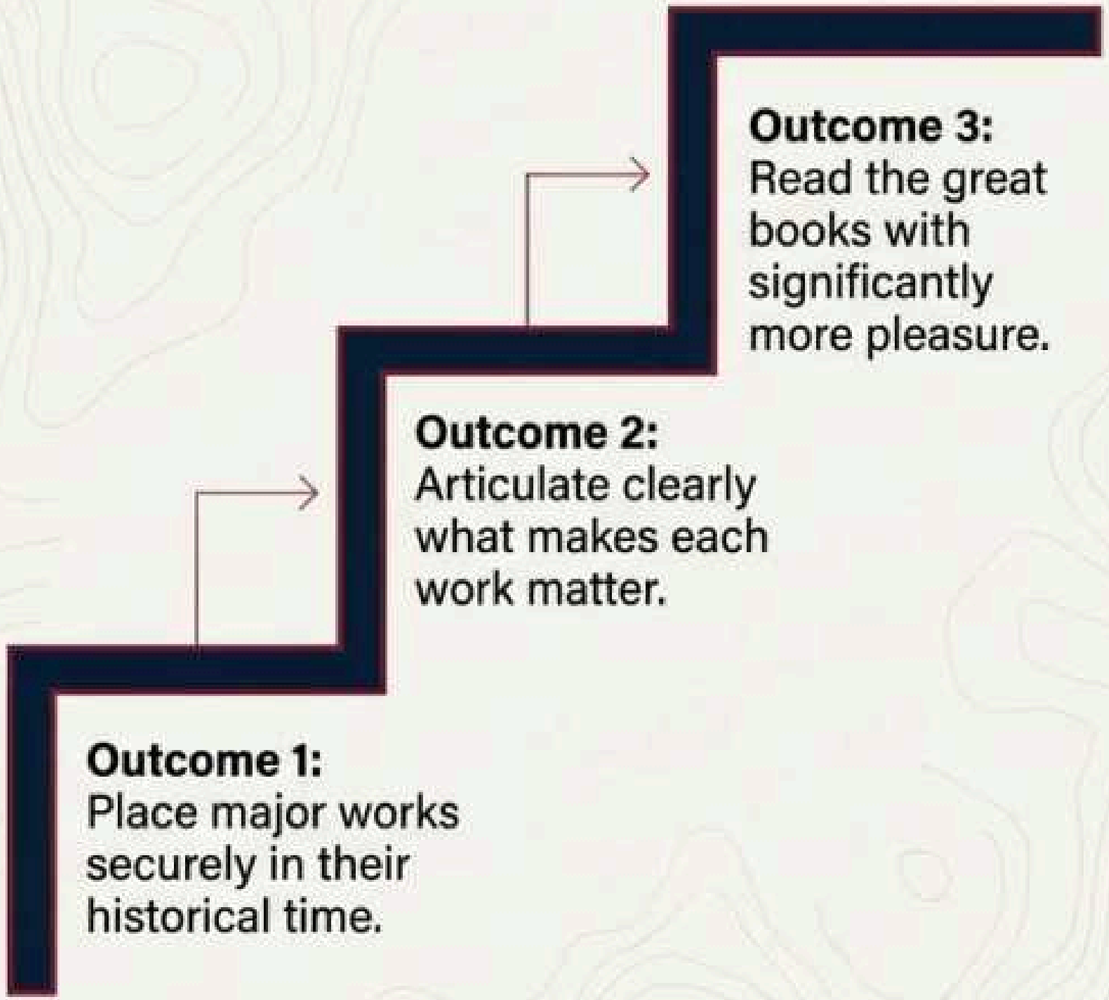
Gemini Notebook

Welcome to
Anderson Academy.

ENGL 210 B: World Literature – Great Books

A free library of university-level courses.

B = Brief: An overview, followed by six short lectures (approximately one hour total).



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[0.3]

World Literature

Writing of many cultures, read across borders, usually in translation.

Great Books

Works that readers keep returning to long after their own day.

From the oldest surviving stories to novels and poems of the present.

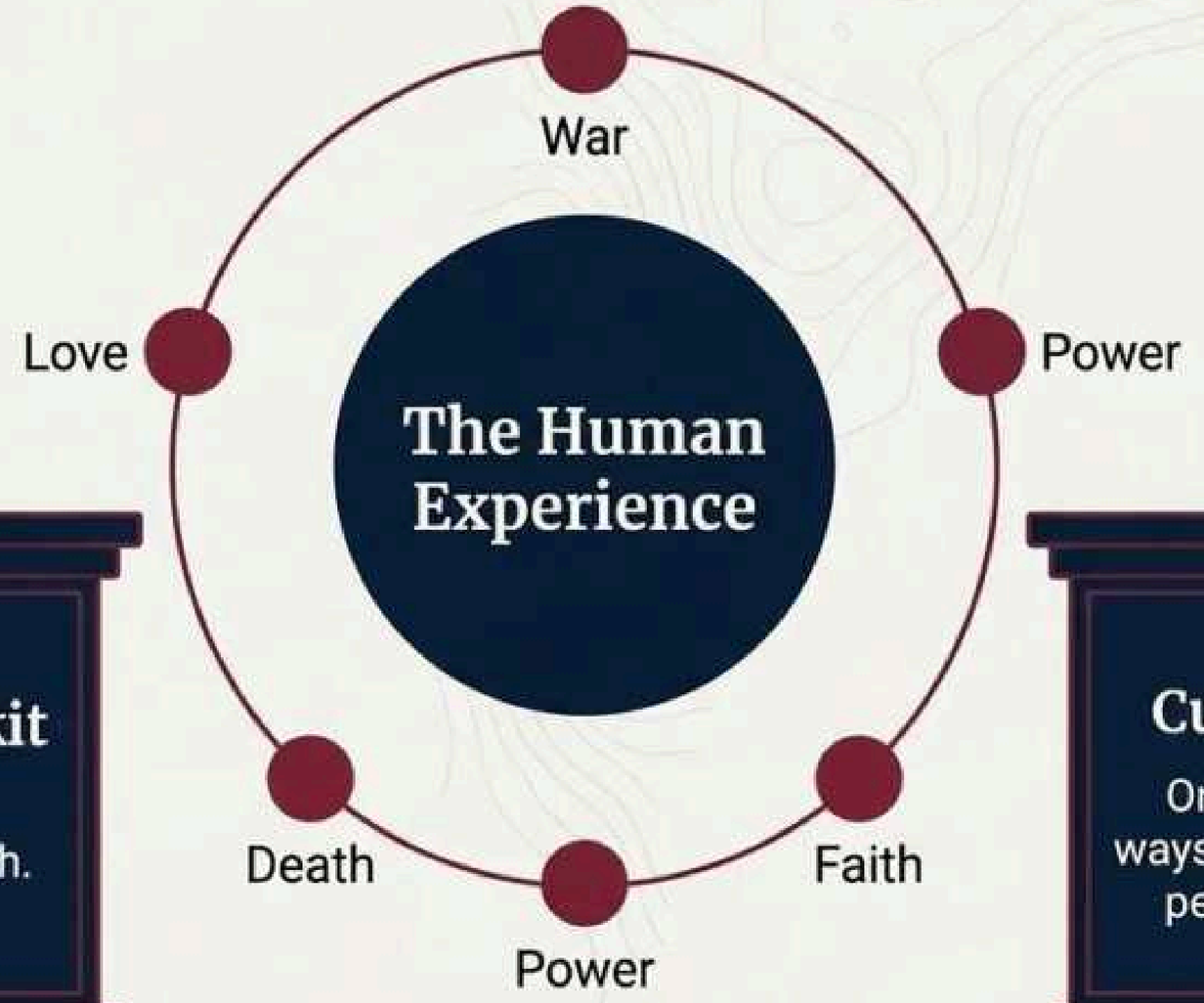
Threads we follow:



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The same questions return in every age.

[0.4]



Cognitive Toolkit

A larger set of examples to think with.

Cultural Bridge

One of the cheapest ways to understand other people and cultures.

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[0.5]

The Course Map: 4,000 Years of Literature (Part I)

Lecture 1: The Ancient World

Gilgamesh, Homer, Greek Tragedy, Virgil, Epics of India and China.

Lecture 2: The Middle Ages

Beowulf, The Tale of Genji, Thousand and One Nights, Dante, Boccaccio, Chaucer.

Lecture 3: Renaissance & Enlightenment

Cervantes, Shakespeare, Voltaire, and the rise of the novel.

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[0.6]

The Course Map: 4,000 Years of Literature (Part II)

Lecture 4: The Nineteenth Century

Romantic poetry, Jane Austen, Realist novelists of France, Britain, Russia, and America.

Lecture 5: Modernism & The Wider World

Kafka, Joyce, Woolf, Lu Xun, Tagore, Borges.

Lecture 6: Since 1945

Existentialism, Magical Realism, Postcolonial writing, Canon debates.

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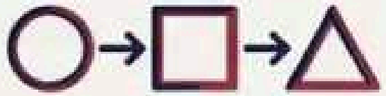
Three big ideas run through the course.



Conversation

Writers answer earlier writers.

Example: Virgil answers Homer, and Joyce answers both.



Form Shapes Meaning

Epic, tragedy, novel, and sonnet each ask readers to feel and think in a different way.



The Canon Evolves

A canon is made by people, and it changes as more voices are heard over time.

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Academic Ground Rules & Limitations

[0.8]

Scholarly Consensus

We describe works as scholars record them and explicitly flag where scholars disagree.

Timeline Fluidity

Many dates for ancient and medieval works are only estimates due to to scarce surviving manuscripts.

The Art of Translation

Most works here are read in translation, and it must be remembered that every translation is itself an interpretation.

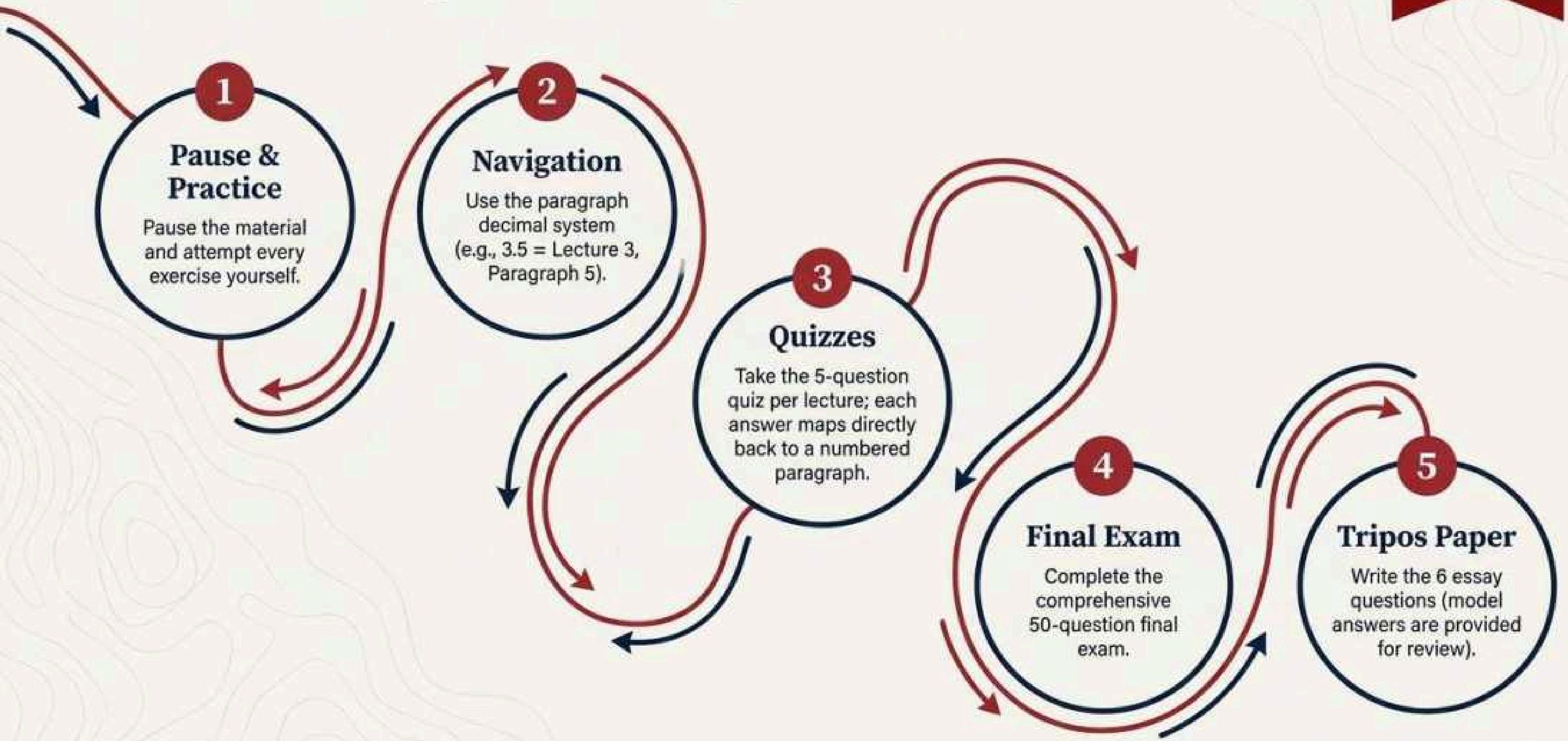
Aggressive Curation

A one-hour survey course must inevitably leave out far more than it includes.

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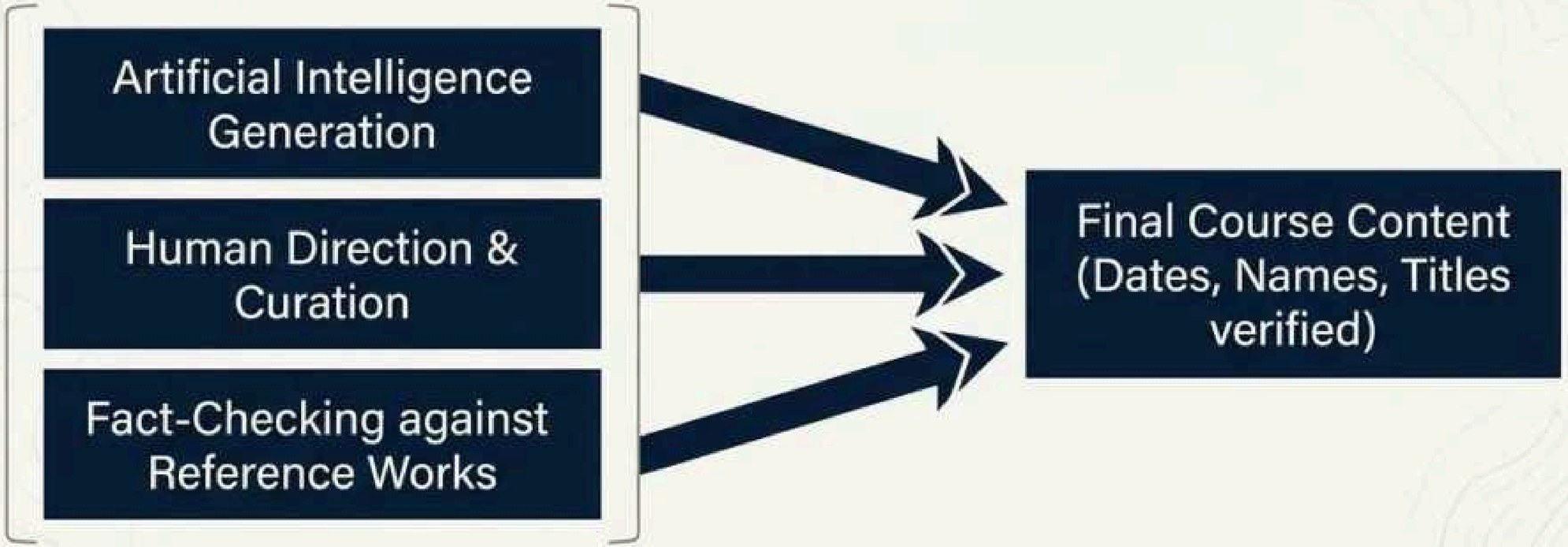
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How to study and navigate the course



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Production Methodology



Found an error? Please tell us. The numbered paragraphs make it easy to point to the exact place.

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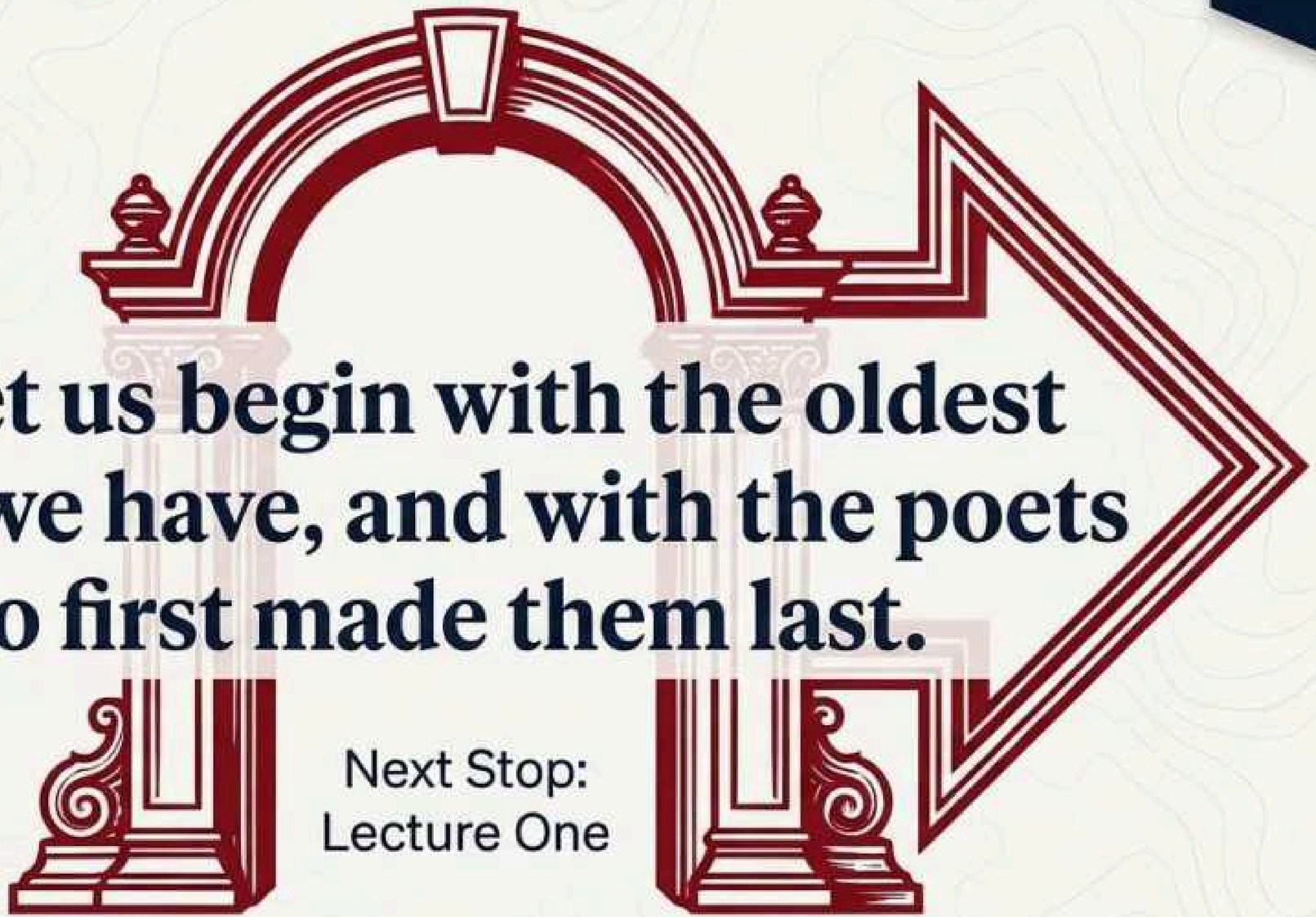
Before we dive in, a quick reminder...

Questions or feedback are always welcome.

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Now let us begin with the oldest stories we have, and with the poets who first made them last.

Next Stop:
Lecture One

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