

LALI 4441/6441 # 10978/10979



Spring 2020

Class meets: FIT 227; MW 2:20-3:45

Instructor: Dr C. Gaudenzi

Office hours: Jones Hall 108J; MW 3:45-4:45; F 9:15-10:15; and by appointment

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Dante's *Divine Comedy*

Course Contents and Methods

The course will introduce students to Dante Alighieri, the greatest poet of the European Middle Ages. We will undertake a close reading in English of his masterpiece, the *Divine Comedy*, which offers a remarkable panorama of the late Middle Ages through one man's poetic vision of the afterlife. Discussion of Dante's *Commedia*, integrated with a general introduction to the history and culture of Italy in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, will be framed through themes still relevant to our century: individual and civic responsibilities, governmental accountability, church-state relations, socio-economic and personal justice. Readings from Rachel Jacoff's *The Cambridge Companion to Dante* and Zygmunt Barański's and Simon Gilson's *The Cambridge Companion to Dante's Commedia* will be assigned. Books on reserve at the library will be especially helpful for students' research papers. Students will read Dante's text at home and come to class prepared for discussion. To accompany our readings and discussions, I will show images of artistic representations of some of the *Commedia's* infernal characters, screen film adaptations of the poem, and employ web sites on Dante. Although we will read the poem in English, a bilingual edition will enable students to see famous lines in the original Italian. Collateral, independent study of the original will be offered for students who know Italian. Graduate students will be assigned a longer paper and will be asked to read the whole *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*.

Goals

The primary goal of this course is to lead students to appreciate the achievement of Dante's *Divine Comedy* and the power it has exerted on Western culture throughout the centuries. At the same time, students will become familiar with Medieval Italy. Through analytical reading of the *Divine Comedy* students will develop their ability to think critically. Since the course has a substantial writing component, students will also learn to express themselves more accurately.

Technology and Software Requirements:

The minimum hardware requirements for this course can be found at this site: <http://www.memphis.edu/uofmonline/technical.php>. The software requirements are Microsoft Office Word and Power Point, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and VLC. If you do not have MS Word, then you can access it for free at www.memphis.edu/getoffice. Students are strongly encouraged to back up all their electronic files on a USB Flash Drive, external hard drive, or a cloud storage website. Students are strongly advised first to create and save all coursework with a word processor, and then to paste it into Ecourseware, in case of a glitch with the browser or on-line connection! Students will need ready access to a reliable computer with high speed internet service. This is widely available (from home, hot-spots, libraries, computers on campus, etc.), so lack of internet access is not an acceptable excuse for missing course deadlines. A wired connection is generally better than WiFi, especially for quizzes/tests. For technical difficulties with electronic submissions or viewing,

consult the UM Help Desk by filling out a form at <http://umhelpdesk.memphis.edu> or call 901-678-8888.

Required Material:

- *Inferno* (Durling and Martinez); *Purgatorio* (Durling and Martinez); *Paradiso* (Durling and Martinez)
- Course packet (available at <http://elearn.memphis.edu>)
- The World of Dante (University of Virginia, <http://www.worldofdante.org/>)
- www.mappingdante.com
- <https://research.bowdoin.edu/dante-today/>

Recommended Material:

- *The Cambridge Companion to Dante* (Jacoff, second edition)
- *The Cambridge Companion to Dante's Commedia*

Grading

A+= 100-99; A= 98-93; A-=92-90; B+= 89-87; B= 86-83; B-= 82-80; C+= 79-77; C= 76-73;
C-= 72-70; D= 69-60; F= below 60

Weekly Homework	12%	
Final Paper and Outline	30%	(6 to 12 full pages)*
1 Short Paper (also presented orally in class)	8%	(2 to 3 full pages, 6-8 minutes)**
6 Quizzes	30%	
Class Participation and discussion	20%	

*8 pages for undergraduates, 15 pages for graduates;

** 2 pages for undergraduates, 3 pages for graduates

Books owned by the UM library:

Dante: A Life in Works (Hollander, on reserve, PQ 4335 H63)
Allegory in Dante's Commedia (Hollander, on reserve, PQ 4406 H6)
Dante: The Poetics of Conversion (Jacoff ed., on reserve, PQ 4390 F82)
Dante: A Collection of Critical Essays (Freccero, on reserve, 4332 T7)
Lectura Dantis: Inferno (Mandelbaum, Oldcorn, Ross, eds, on reserve, PQ 4443 L38)
Dante Now (Cachey, on reserve, PQ 4383 D36)
The Political Vision of the Divine Comedy (Ferrante, on reserve, PQ 4422 F18)
Essays on Dante (Musa, on reserve, PQ 4390 M87)
Advent at the Gates: Dante's Comedy (Musa, on reserve, 4390 M86)
The Undivine Comedy (Barolini, on reserve, PQ 4416 B37)
The Design in the Wax (Cogan, in electronic format)
Divine Dialectic (Raffa, on reserve, PQ 4390 R26)
The Metaphysics of Dante's Comedy (Moevs, in electronic format)
Dante for the New Millenium (Barolini, in electronic format)
Sparks and Seeds (Stewart and Cornish, on reserve, PQ 4390 S66)
Dante and the Grammar of the Nursing Body (Cestaro, on reserve, PQ 4429 A2 C47)
Experiencing the Afterlife (Gragnotati, on reserve, PQ 4419 F87)
The Ancient Flame: Dante and the Poets (Wetherbee, on reserve, PQ 4427 C53)
Dante on View (Braida and Calè, on reserve, PQ 4335 D355)
Woman As Image in Medieval Literature (Ferrante, on reserve, PQ 682 W6 F4)
Dante's Reforming Mission and Women in the Comedy (Glenn, on reserve, PQ 4409 W8 G54)
Dante's Two Beloveds (Holmes, on reserve, PQ 4414 H656)
A Concise History of Italy (Duggan, on reserve, DG 467 D84)
The Towns of Italy in the Later Middle Ages (Trevor, on reserve, DG 500 T69)
Critical Companion to Dante (Rudd, in electronic format)
Dante Encyclopedia (Lansing, in reference section)
Medieval Italy (Kleinhenz, in reference section)

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- ❖ WEEKLY HOMEWORK. After reading the Canti assigned each week, students must send me an e-mail (due the night before our meeting time) containing answers to pre-assigned questions on the Canti to be read for that day.
- ❖ PAPERS (2). One short paper (2 full pages for undergraduates, 3 full pages for graduates, also presented orally in class) and one final paper (6 full pages for undergraduates and 12 full pages for graduates). For all papers use the font Times New Roman, 12 point, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
- ❖ The short paper should offer a close reading of a particular Canto. The short paper should represent the student's own commentary and contextualize the Canto within Dante's *Divine Comedy* and its historical time.
- ❖ The final paper is a research paper. Criticism and evaluation must be grounded on specific parts of the *Inferno*. Topics might include the representation of women in Dante's *Inferno*, the use of similes by Dante, the representation of the Ugolino episode in later art, etc. As soon as students have decided the topic, they must submit a one-page outline and discuss it with me. You should use at least 5 secondary sources. Remember that Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for academic essays. A good bibliography includes varied sources, for instance, a monographic book, an academic essay, two newspaper articles, and one encyclopedia entry (do not use more than one encyclopedia entry). If you have doubts, do not hesitate to ask me. Make sure that all the sources included in your bibliography are quoted in your paper. All topics must be approved by me, outlines are due March 16, draft papers are due March 30, and the final copy of the paper is due the day of the final quiz, May 6. Those interested can send their papers to the AATI College Essay Contest which has a \$ 500 prize for essays on Italian culture written in English (deadline mid to late May).

QUIZZES

- ❖ QUIZZES (5). Quizzes will include essay questions and identifications. They will cover the readings and the material presented during lectures. The structure of quizzes is explained the meeting time before they are scheduled.

EXTRA HELP

- ❖ **If you encounter difficulties** with the material please contact me immediately!

COURSE POLICIES

- ❖ 3 tardies = 1 absence.
- ❖ **Absences in excess of 4 will negatively affect the grade** in the course (leave absences for genuine emergencies). For each additional absence, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade. In other words, if your final average is 80% and you were absent 6 times, 4% will be deducted from 80%.
- ❖ Late homework will not be accepted for credit except for a documented emergency.
- ❖ If you miss a lesson you are responsible for the material covered.
- ❖ You must take tests and exams the days they are scheduled. **No make-up quizzes will be given except in case of documented medical or family emergencies.**
- ❖ Students are not allowed to receive or attempt to receive assistance in the preparation of any assignment, exam, or composition to be submitted for a grade. If you have any doubts, **see the university's web-site on academic dishonesty** (<http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs/>) or ask me (e-mail is an easy way to reach your instructor and you should check your UM email everyday).
- ❖ Students' **cell phones must be turned off** in class.
- ❖ **You can leave the classroom only for emergencies.**
- ❖ **Students with a disability** who seek accommodations should inform me at the beginning of the semester.
- ❖ To comply with the government's **FERPA** regulations, I will not reply to emails from non-university email accounts and I will not send emails to non-university email accounts.
- ❖ The University is committed to ensuring equality in education and eliminating any and all acts of sexual misconduct from its campus. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can make a report to the Office for Institutional Equity at oiie@memphis.edu (mailto: oiie@memphis.edu) or 901-678-2713. Please note that if you make a report to me I am required to report it. If you want to make a confidential report you can

contact the University Counseling Center, 214 Wilder Tower, 901-678-2068.

CIRCOLO ITALIANO

On February 14-15, 7:30 pm, students will be able to view Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* at the GPAC. On March 28 and April 4, 7:30 pm, students will have the opportunity to see Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Playhouse on the square. In addition, on April 15, 17, and 21, students and the Memphis community will be able to view three contemporary Italian Films at the UC Theatre (**Italian Film Festival USA**). (Film titles and exact dates will be announced later in the semester). Finally, **the Tavola Italiana** meets at the coffee shop of the Fedex Institute of Technology each Friday at 12:30 starting from January 31 to April 24. Follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/Italianprogrammehis

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Calendar	In Class	Homework: Canti	Homework: Jacoff
January 22	Introduction: Italy in the XIII and early XIV Century		
27	Life of Dante and Introduction to his <i>Divine Comedy</i> , Video Divine Comedy, <i>Inferno</i>	Introduction 1-2 (<i>Inf.</i>)	1-13; 67-90
29	Dante's lyric past, Video A TV Dante	3-5	14-34
February 3	QUIZ 1 , Dante's Florence and Dante's use of allegory	6-11	236-56; 161-80
5			
10	From <i>auctor</i> to author	12-17	46-66
12			
17	QUIZ 2 , Dante and the Bible	18-23	125-40
19			
24	Dante and the classical poets, Video Maciste in Hell	24-29	141-60
26			
March 2	QUIZ 3 , Dante in English, Video Dante's Inferno	30-34	281-304
4			
9-15	Spring Break		
16	Introduction to <i>Purgatorio</i> , Video Giotto	1-2, 8-10 (<i>Pur.</i>) Outline paper due	91-106
18			
20	Last day to drop a class with a grade of "W"		

23	QUIZ 4 , The poetry and poetics of the creation	21-26	218-35
25			
30	Introduction to <i>Paradiso</i>	27-31 (<i>Pur.</i>), 1 (<i>Par.</i>) , <u>Draft final paper due</u>	107-24
April 1			
6	QUIZ 5 , Dante and the empire	2-6	257-69
8			
13	Video Cavani's <i>Francesco</i>	10-14	201-17
15			
20	The theology of the <i>Comedy</i>	30-33	
22			
27			
29			
May 6	1:00-3:00 pm	<u>Final Quiz,</u> <u>Final paper due</u>	