

Dante: Fall 2013

ITC 349 (37585), same as E 322, topic 23 (35687)

TTH 12:30-1:45 in Parlin 201

Professor Guy Raffa, Dept. of French and Italian

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The *Divine Comedy* offers a remarkable panorama of the late Middle Ages through one man's poetic vision of the afterlife. However, we continue to read and study the poem not only to learn about the thought and culture of medieval and early modern Europe but also because many of the issues confronting Dante and his age are no less important to individuals and societies today. Personal and civic responsibilities, governmental accountability, church-state relations, economics and social justice, Dante's influence on artists and other writers, benefits and limitations of interdisciplinarity—these are some of the themes that will frame our discussion of the *Divine Comedy*. Although you will read the poem in English, a bilingual edition will enable you to study and learn famous lines in the original Italian. **The course is taught in English.**

Danteworlds (<http://danteworlds.laits.utexas.edu/>): In addition to detailed entries, audio recordings, and study questions, this Web site contains hundreds of images from works by Sandro Botticelli, an anonymous 16th-century artist, John Flaxman, William Blake, Gustave Dorè, and Suloni Robertson.

Through close reading, class discussion, and the use of *Danteworlds*, you are expected to identify and explain the significance of major characters, references, and ideas in Dante's *Divine Comedy* (*Inferno*, *Purgatory*, and *Paradise*) and *Vita Nuova*. You will be tested on this ability in two exams. Take-home essays will assess your ability to support an interpretation of a specific aspect of Dante's poetry with detailed textual analysis. I expect you to have read the assigned cantos and reviewed the corresponding material in *Danteworlds* (including the study questions) before class.

Assignments and Computation of Grade:

Two in-class examinations (30% each): 60%

Two take-home essays (15% each): 30%

Class work (including unannounced quizzes): 10%

Regular attendance is required: No student who misses more than 6 classes (3 weeks) for any reason can complete the course with a passing grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Inferno*, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* (Trans. Allen Mandelbaum)
Vita Nuova (Trans. Barbara Reynolds)

OPTIONAL TEXT: *The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the "Divine Comedy"* (Raffa)

Dante: Additional Information

Grading and Plagiarism: All assignments will be graded on a 100 point scale and converted to letter grades consistent with university policy:

A (94-100) = 4.0, A- (90-93) = 3.67, B+ (88-89) = 3.3, B (84-87) = 3.0, B- (80-83) = 2.67, C+ (78-79) = 2.3, C (74-77) = 2.0, C- (70-73) = 1.67, D+ (68-69) = 1.3, D (64-67) = 1.0, D- (60-63) = 0.67, F (below 60) = 0.0

Plagiarism, intentional or not, will result in an automatic F on the assignment as well as possible disciplinary action. For the definition of plagiarism and the University's policy on it, see:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

University Notices and Policies

University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students: E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

DANTE COURSE SYLLABUS

8/29: Introduction; Multimedia Dante	10/17: <u>Purg.</u> 13-16 (Sapia, Guido del Duca, Marco Lombardo)
9/3: <u>Inferno</u> 1-3 (Fence-sitters)	10/22: Exam I
9/5: 4-6 (Limbo, Lustful, Gluttons)	10/24: Dante's <i>Inferno</i> : film adaptation; Read <u>Purg.</u> 17-20 (Abbot of Zeno, Pope Adrian V, Hugh Capet)
9/10: 7-9 (Avaricious & Prodigal, Wrathful & Sullen)	10/29: 21-24 (Staius, Forese, Bonagiunta); <u>Vita Nuova</u> pp. 1-45
9/12: 10-12 (Heretics, Murderers)	10/31: 25-27 (Guinizzelli, Daniel); <u>Vita Nuova</u> pp. 46-64
9/17: 13-16 (Suicides, Blasphemers, Sodomites)	11/5: 28-33 (Matelda, Beatrice)
9/19: 17-19 (Usurers, Panderers & Seducers, Flatterers, Simonists)	11/7: <u>Paradiso</u> 1-4 (Moon)
9/24: 20-23 (Soothsayers, Grafters, Hypocrites)	11/12: 5-9 (Moon, Mercury, Venus)
9/26: 24-26 (Thieves, Evil Counselors)	11/14: 10-14 (Sun); Blanton Museum
10/1: 27-30 (Evil Counselors, Schismatics, Falsifiers)	11/19: 15-20 (Mars / Jupiter)
10/3: 31-34 (Giants, Traitors)	11/21: 21-27 (Saturn, Stars, Primum Mobile)
10/8: <u>Purgatorio</u> 1-4 (Cato, Casella, Manfred, Belacqua)	11/26: 28-30 (Primum Mobile, Empyrean)
10/10: 5-9 (Buonconte, Pia, Sordello, Nino, Conrad)	THANKSGIVING
10/15: 10-12 (Omberto, Oderisi); Take-Home Essay Due	12/3: 31-33 (Empyrean); Take-Home Essay Due
	12/5: Exam II

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAMINATION