



Eng335: Dante in English

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Office hours: T,W 10:00-1:00pm and by appointment

Course description:

This course introduces students to the *Commedia* of Dante Alighieri in English translation. Students examine and interpret all three major canticles of the poem — *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso* — as well as several of Dante’s minor works and the works of those who influenced him. We analyze the poem in light of its political context in fourteenth-century Italy; its philosophical and theological context in scholasticism, neoplatonism, and Christianity; and its literary context in the epic and courtly traditions.

Required Texts:

You may use any translation of the *Commedia*; however, for the sake of your convenience and preparation, I highly recommend that you obtain the translations listed below for class.

Inferno, trans. Allen Mandelbaum (Bantam Classics)

Purgatorio, trans. Mandelbaum

Paradiso, trans. Mandelbaum

Vita Nuova, trans. Barbara Reynolds (Penguin Classics)

There are many articles in digital form (available on Blackboard, marked “pdf” on the reading schedule) that students are expected to bring to class *in either print or digital form*; failure to do so will result in an attendance penalty of $\frac{1}{2}$ point. Students may not access these texts via smartphone; e-readers are acceptable only if they allow students to take notes on documents. The use of laptops in class is strongly discouraged.

General Requirements (and grade distributions)

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	30%
Maps (3)	15% (5% each)
Paper	20%
Attendance	5%
Reading Quizzes	5%

Recommended readings (outside of class):

¹⁰ Augustine, *The Confessions* (especially books 7 and 8)

The Bible, especially Genesis, Exodus, the Song of Songs, and the Christian New Testament

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*

Ovid, *The Metamorphosis*

Virgil, *The Aeneid* (especially books 1- 6)

Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

I. Aims and Introductory Remarks

1. Reading

Students should read the entire *Commedia* in full and should reread selected portions multiple times with close attention. Class conversations will focus on exploring only portions of the poem indicated in the schedule; students may then return to the rest of the text with new insight in preparation for exams and essays. Students are always encouraged to introduce relevant material from poem into class discussion and on graded assignments, whether or not it is listed on the reading schedule. **If you have not obtained the texts by the third class meeting of the semester, your attendance grade will be penalized ½ point each day until you do; the same penalty will occur if you do not bring the required text to each class thereafter.**

2. Class Discussion

Class will consist of some lecture but will be driven primarily by student questions and dialogue. Students should regularly prepare for discussion by (a) reading the assignment in full and any portions of the poem preceding it; (b) reading the editorial annotations to the assignment and any secondary essays assigned on Canvas; (c) marking the text with notes and questions, (d) actively integrating those notes and questions into their contributions to class discussion, and (e) researching the work of scholars and critics of Dante and medieval literature and theology.

II. Specific Requirements

1. Two examinations: Exams will consist of three sorts of questions: identification, short-answer, and short essay. Identification questions involve identifying the speaker and his or her location in Dante's afterworld. Short-answer questions, often requiring not more than a phrase, involve primarily material from class discussion. Short essay questions will ask you to respond to a brief, specific question at a certain length; they may address broader questions of history, politics, and context, stylistic devices, and terminology. You must bring a blue book to class on the day of the examination, and you must answer exam questions in numerical order.

2. Paper: Students will complete one research paper (7-10 pp.). Instructor will distribute specifications.

3. Maps: Students will submit three detailed maps throughout the course of the semester, one for each region of the *Commedia*. These can be any size and may incorporate diagrams, illustrations, text, and other supplemental visual aids; they must incorporate some detail in textual form. Each map, however, must be capable of being reproduced digitally for viewing by future classes; exemplary assignments will be selected for this purpose. The use of creativity and multimedia is encouraged and will be rewarded with higher scores. Maps are graded on a scale of 5 (highest) to 1.

4. Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes will be unannounced and will typically consist of three short questions that will be answerable after having read the assigned material for that class period. No make-up quizzes will be administered. I calculate quiz grades on a weighted scale as follows: 3/3=100%, 2/3=75%, 1/3=50%. Miscellaneous short assignments may be counted toward this category as well.

III. Course Policies and Guidelines

Email Policy: All email messages to me must contain in the subject line (1) your last name and (2) the course number. Messages without the proper subject heading are not likely to receive responses. I do not accept assignments via email.

Grading Policy: Each assignment will be graded on a scale from A to F. All questions about grade assessment on specific assignments should be addressed to me directly, not to the teaching assistant. You must complete every assignment to pass this class. See scale below for numerical equivalents.

Late Submission Policy: All assignments turned in after the class period in which they are due will be penalized one full letter grade *per day* late (not per class period). Please arrange to have your written assignment delivered to me by the end of class on the date due if you are absent.

Participation Policy: Please arrive to class on time and prepared for discussion with notes and questions. Students are welcome to speak with me about the status of their participation and what they can do to improve it. Also, students are encouraged to meet with me in order to offer feedback on class discussion if they find that they are unable to participate as much as they would like.

Laptop and Tablet Policy: Laptops and digital tablets are only permitted when being actively used for the purpose of accessing texts (see above guidelines in “Digital Texts”). I ask that students refrain from using them throughout the class for note-taking and other activities, whether these activities pertain directly to the discussion underway or not.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and counts for 5% of your grade. Not bringing the text to class will affect your attendance grade negatively, as will frequent tardiness. Excused absences must not exceed 2; an excused absence is simply one of which I have been advised ahead of time either by written note or email. Missing 5 or more classes (in a TR course) or 6 or more classes (in a MWF course) will result in an “F” for the course. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to take all steps necessary to complete the assignment for the next class on-time. Calculate your attendance grade using the formula $[(10.0 - A) / 10]$, where A= the number of unexcused absences. Students who encounter extenuating circumstances should contact the Dean of Students Office (<http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/>), which will advocate on their behalf.

Office Hours: I welcome students to meet with me during office hours or, if they are unable to meet at that time, to contact me so that we can schedule an alternate time convenient to us both. Please be sure to read the “email policy” (above) when requesting a meeting via email.

UNCG Academic Integrity Policy: First responsibility for academic integrity lies with individual students and faculty members of the UNCG community. Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Violations include, for example, cheating, plagiarism, misuse of academic resources, falsification, and facilitating academic dishonesty. If knowledge is to be gained and properly evaluated, it must be pursued under conditions free from dishonesty. Deceit and misrepresentations are incompatible with the fundamental activity of this academic institution and shall not be tolerated. A violation of academic integrity is an act harmful to all other students, faculty and, ultimately, the entire community. Specific information on the Academic Integrity Policy and obligations of faculty and students may be found online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>. Selling class notes for commercial gain or purchasing such class notes in this or any other course at UNCG is a violation of the University’s Copyright Policy and of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sanctions for violations of academic integrity: Unacknowledged use of someone else’s work is plagiarism; work that is not properly documented will receive a zero. Further penalties may be assessed according to the Academic Integrity Policy, including the initiation formal proceedings as outlined by the Dean of Students Office: <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/plagiarism>. Students suspected of using any form of unauthorized electronic device during quizzes or exams will receive a zero.

Student Counseling Center: If you have difficulty meeting the demands of this or any class because of personal or family problems, anxiety, or any other emotional distress, please contact the Student Counseling and Testing Center: (336) 334-5874. <http://studenthealth.uncg.edu/ctc/>.

Important notice regarding disability: UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services located at 215 EUC. See: www.uncg.edu/ods.

Grading Scale

A+	97.0 and above
A	93.0-96.9
A-	90.0-92.9
B+	87.0-89.9
B	83.0-86.9
B-	80.0-82.9
C+	77.0-79.9
C	73.0-76.9
C-	70.0-72.9
D+	67.0-69.9
D	63.0-66.9
D-	60.0-62.9
F	Below 60

IV. Reading and Exam Schedule

M	1/11	Introduction: Inferno 1	
W	1/13	Inf. 1-2	Virgil, Beatrice
F	1/15	Inf. 3; Pertile, “Introduction to <i>Inferno</i> ” (pdf)	The Gate, Charon
M	1/18	No class: MLK holiday	
W	1/20	Freccero, “The Prologue Scene” (pdf)	
F	1/22	Inf. 4; Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> XI ; Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> VI (PDF)	
M	1/25	<i>Vita Nuova</i> (all)	
W	1/27	<i>Vita Nuova</i> (cont.); Mazzota, video (.mov)	
F	1/29	Inf. 5; Vittorini, “Francesca da Rimini and the <i>Dolce Stil Nuovo</i> ” (pdf)	Minos, Dido, Paolo and Francesca
M	2/1	Inf. 10; Auerbach, “Farinata and Cavalcante” (pdf); <i>Optional: Najemy, "Dante and Florence"</i> (pdf)	Farinata, Cavalcanti
W	2/3	Inf. 13	Pier della Vigna
F	2/5	Inf. 15-17; Singleton, from <i>Journey to Beatrice</i> (pdf)	Brunetto Latini; Geryon
M	2/8	Inf. 19	Simon Mago; Nicholas III
W	2/10	Inf. 26	Ulysses
F	2/12	Inf. 27	Guido da Montefeltro
M	2/15	Inf. 32-33; Map 1 due	Ugolino, Ruggieri
W	2/17	Inf. 34	Lucifer, Judas
F	2/19	review	
M	2/22	Exam 1: Inferno	
W	2/24	Purg. 1; Schnapp, “Introduction to <i>Purgatorio</i> ” (pdf)	Cato, love and free will
F	2/26	Purg. 2-3	Casella, Manfred
M	2/29	Purg. 5-6	Montefeltro, La Pia, Sordello
W	3/2	Purg. 9-11	Purgatorial gate, Humility
F	3/4	Purg. 13-16	Envious, Wrathful, M. Lombardo
M	3/7	No class: spring break	
W	3/9		
F	3/11		
M	3/14	Purg. 17-18;	The Slothful, Plan of Purgatory
W	3/16	Purg. 21-22; Croce, from <i>The Poetry of Dante</i> (pdf)	Avaricious and Prodigal, Statius
F	3/18	Purg. 25-6	Guinizzelli, Arnaut Daniel
M	3/21	Purg. 27-28; Map 2 due	The earthly paradise, Matelda
W	3/23	Purg. 29-30	Virgil's departure, Beatrice
F	3/25	No class: spring holiday	
M	3/28	Purg. 31-33; Singleton, “The Advent of Beatrice”	Confession, Beatrice, Matelda
W	3/30	Para. 1; Jacoff, “Introduction to Paradiso” (pdf)	Introduction, Glaucus
F	4/1	Para. 3-4	Piccarda Donati; Costanza
M	4/4	Para. 6; Grandgent, from <i>The Power of Dante</i> (pdf)	Justinian, Roman Eagle, Romeo
W	4/6	Para. 10-12	St. Thomas, St. Bonaventure
F	4/8	Para. 15-17; Ferrante, from <i>The Political Vision of the Divine Comedy</i> (pdf)	Cacciaguida
M	4/11	Para. 18-20	The Eagle

W	4/13	Par. 27-28; Map 3 due	Primum Mobile
F	4/15	Para. 29-30	Celestial garden, rivers
M	4/18	Para 31-33	Bernard, The Mystic Rose
W	4/20	TBA	
F	4/22	TBA	
M	4/25	TBA, Paper due (before 5pm)	
T	4/26	Review	
M	5/2	Final Exam: Purgatorio and Paradiso	