University of Florida

Honors Program

IDH2930 Section 2143 Class #18209

**Dante**

**Tuesdays, p.9 (4:05-4:55), LIT 0119**

**Syllabus**

Fall 2018

**Instructor:**

Instructor: Alberto De Simoni

Office: Dauer 125

Office Hours: M p.4 (10:40-11:30), W p.6 (12:50-1:40) and by appointment

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**Course Description:**

*Course content and objectives*: The course will cover a significant anthology of cantos from Dante’s Inferno. In class the text will be analyzed in its main points, with occasional incursions into the original text in Italian and with a special attention to its poetic form. The course will lead the students alongside Dante’s character in the poem, and they will understand the journey of knowledge of mankind the poet-character has embarked on. Through the stories of the souls he encounters, Dante wonders, as he wanders down into the depths of hell, about the main themes of human existence: love, politics and human society, knowledge and the pursuit of truth. Students will learn to identify and interpret these various themes, and will be encouraged to compare their personal views with Dante’s.

Reading Dante constitutes a challenge and a gift. Understanding the political, cultural, and religious context in which Dante operated and which he represented in his poem, might seem overwhelming, but through his (at times) extremely ‘local’ experience, the power of his poetry shines even brighter in its capacity to reach extremely ‘universal’ themes and problems. Therefore, great attention will be dedicated to providing students with the necessary information to understand the historical, political, and religious background of Dante’s poetry. The main goal, however, is to develop an appreciation for the universal beauty of the poem.

*Resources:*

Dante, *Inferno*, Anthony Esolen (Translation). Random House, Modern Library.

NOTE ON THE ADOPTED BOOK: there are many editions of Dante’s Inferno. It is important to purchase the one with the translation by Anthony Esolen. Other translations will not be allowed.

**Grading Scale:**

100- 94 A,

93-90 A-

89-87 B+

86-83 B

82-80 B-

79-77 C+

76-73 C

72-70 C-

69-67 D+

66-63 D

62-60 D-

59- E

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance and class participation: 40%**

Students are expected to come to every class and actively engage in class discussions. Readings must be completed ahead of time, and occasionally a reflection/journal entry online will be required.

**In class presentation: 20%**

Students will prepare a 3 to 5 minute introduction to the discussion on one canto throughout the semester. The cantos will be assigned within the first week of class.

**Final Project: 40%**

A final paper is due December 12 at 11.59 pm. Details on the assignment will be discussed in class.

**Classroom Expectation and Etiquette:**

1. **Perfect attendance** is expected. For absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other reason as per the [University policy](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences), the student is required to notify the instructor **before** the day of the absence, and if possible at the start of the semester, in order to arrange make up time and procedures. No makeups allowed for unexcused absences.
2. **Common Courtesy**: Cell phones and other electronic devices not used for instructional purposes must be turned off or silenced and stored during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.
3. **Late or Make-Up Assignments**: Homework which is found to be incomplete will be graded as incomplete (equivalent to a 0) and late work will not be accepted. You may receive an extension on an assignment only in extraordinary circumstance and **only if the request for the extension is prompt, timely, and accompanied by all necessary written documentation.**
4. **Classroom Accommodation:** The University of Florida is committed to providing academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, a student should present his/her accommodation letter to me supporting a request for accommodation. The University encourages students with disabilities to follow these procedures as early as possible within the semester. *Please provide the instructor with the necessary documentation at the start of the semester or no less than five business days ahead of a scheduled exam.*
5. **Evaluate your Instructor:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, and students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.
6. **Academic Integrity**: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/%20sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. You are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.
7. **Counseling Resources**: Students who face difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may refer to the University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, or Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171. On-campus resources for students also include Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. **Please do not wait until the end of the semester to seek help.**

**Class Schedule (dates are subject to change. The topics of the last three session will be determined according to the progress and the interests of the class).**

**Week 1 (Aug 28th)**

Reading: *Inferno 1*

**Week 2 (Sept 4th)**

Reading: *Inferno 2*

**Week 3 (Sept. 11th)**

Reading: *Inferno 3, 4*

**Week 4 (Sept. 18th)**

Reading: *Inferno* 5

**Week 5 (Sept. 25th)**

Reading: *Inferno 10*

**Week 6 (Oct. 2nd)**

Reading: *Inferno 11*

**Week 7 (Oct. 9th)**

Reading: *Inferno 15*

**Week 8 (Oct. 16th)**

Reading: *Inferno 19***Week 9 (Oct. 23rd)**

Reading: *Inferno 26*

**Week 10 (Oct. 30th)**

Reading: *Inferno 27*

**Week 11 (Nov. 6th)**

Reading: *Inferno 33*

**Week 12 (Nov. 13th)**

Reading: *Inferno 34*

**Week 13 (Nov. 20th)**

TBD

**Week 14 (Nov. 27th)**

TBD

**Week 15 (Dec. 4th)**

TBD