

***Uncommon Read: Dante Alighieri's Purgatorio***  
***IDH2930 (CN 29548)***

***Spring 2023***

*Instructor:* Mihow McKenny ([m.mckenny@ufl.edu](mailto:m.mckenny@ufl.edu))

*Class Meetings; Office Hours:* Thursdays, 1:55-2:45pm (7<sup>th</sup> period), 119 Little Hall ; Planned meeting availability on Mondays (12:00-1:30pm, or by appointment)

*Course Description:* Dante's *Purgatorio*, the second canticle of his grand, activist vision of the afterlife, the *Commedia*, supplies a timeless guide to the cultivation of virtue, and invites deep insight into medieval thought and society. In this course, we will be travelling through Dante's *Purgatorio* by means of close reading and historical contextualization. Each meeting will consist in a 15-minute exposition of a Dantean context, followed by communal discussion and examination of *Purgatorio*'s text. Assignments will promote original engagement with Dante's poetry.

*Book:* Alighieri, Dante. *Purgatory*. Translated to English by Anthony Esolen. Modern Library or Random House (multiple years of publication). Some additional required readings will be provided via Canvas.

*Attendance:* 1 absence permitted—please notify instructor. Requirements regarding make-up assignments in this course are consistent with university policies.

***Course Schedule:***

January 12<sup>th</sup>

Course introduction—Conceptions of virtue in the European intellectual tradition

January 19<sup>th</sup>

*Inferno* and *Purgatorio*; c. (canti/cantos) 1-2 (Antepurgatory)

January 26<sup>th</sup>

Humanism in the later middle ages; c. 3-4 (Antepurgatory)

February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dante's political ideals; c. 5-7 (Antepurgatory)

February 9<sup>th</sup>

Virtue ethics in later medieval society; c. 8-10 (Antepurgatory / Pride)

February 16<sup>th</sup>

Secular and monastic education; c. 11-13 (Pride / Envy)

March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Papal-imperial contestation; c. 14-17 (Envy / Wrath)

March 9<sup>th</sup>

The Capetian dynasty of France; c. 18-21 (Sloth / Avarice)

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dante's *Eclogues*; c. 22-24 (Gluttony)

March 30<sup>th</sup>

Medieval sexual ideals; c. 25-27 (Lust)

April 6<sup>th</sup>

Troubadour poetry; the 'enclosed garden' (*hortus conclusus*); c. 28-30 (Earthly Paradise)

April 13<sup>th</sup>

Theories of forgiveness; c. 31-33 (Earthly Paradise)

April 20<sup>th</sup>

Presentation of mini-projects

### **Final Exam Date/Time TBD**

*Grades and Grading:* Specific assignment guidelines will be provided. Students' work will be graded in accordance with UF grading policy, available from <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

*Due Dates* (submit work by 11:59 pm):

**Wed., February 1:** Essay 1

**Sat., March 4:** Essay 2

**Tue., April 11:** Essay 3

**Wed., April 18:** Mini-Project written materials

*Grading Scale:*

Grade	Grade Points	Percentage
A	4.0	94-100
A <sup>-</sup>	3.67	90-93
B <sup>+</sup>	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B <sup>-</sup>	2.67	80-82
C <sup>+</sup>	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	73-76
C <sup>-</sup>	1.67	70-72
D	1.00-1.33	60-69
F	0.00	59 or below

Writing assignments (3)	50% (10%, 15%, 25%)
Participation in discussion	20%
Collaborative mini-project	15%
Final exam	15%

*Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:* Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. To get started with the Disability Resource Center, visit <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access—or any other educational—needs as early as possible in the semester.

*Online Course Evaluation:* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>

*Academic Conduct:* UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. To read the Conduct Code, visit <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

## **Campus Resources:**

### ***Health and Wellness***

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

*University Police Department:* Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

*GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450

### ***Academic Resources***

*E-learning Technical Support:* Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. <https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/>

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>

*On-Line Student Complaints:* View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process at <https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process/>