“DANTE’S DIVINE COMEDY”

THE COURSE “DANTE’S DIVINE COMEDY” ILLUSTRATES THE KEY SUBJECTS OF DANTE’S MASTERPIECE. SELECTED TEXTS FROM EACH OF ITS SECTIONS (HELL, PURGATORY, PARADISE) WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MEDIEVAL LITERATURE AND CULTURE. THE PHILOSOPHICAL, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL IDEAS AT THE CORE OF THE DIVINE COMEDY SHALL BE INTRODUCED AND PRESENTED WITH REFERENCE TO DANTE’S NON-POETICAL WORKS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHALL BE ALSO GIVEN TO THE COMEDY AS DANTE’S OWN AUTOBIOGRAPHY: FROM HIS FLORENTINE DEBUT AS A WRITER OF ORIGINAL LOVE LYRICS TO HIS POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AND FINAL EXILE FROM FLORENCE. COMPARATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES SHALL BE INTRODUCED AND RELATED READING SUGGESTED.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
HELL TRANSLATED BY, R. PINSKY, (FARRAR STRAUSS)
PURGATORY TRANSLATED BY MANDELBAUM (BANTAM CLASSICS)
PARADISE TRANSLATED BY CIARDI (MENTOR)

RELATED READINGS:
AUGUSTINE: SELECTIONS FROM CONFESSIONS
VIRGIL: SELECTIONS FROM AENEID
SHAKESPEARE: ROMEO AND JULIET; TROYLUUS AND CRESSIDA
PRIMO LEVI: IF THIS IS A MAN
UMBERTO ECO: THE NAME OF THE ROSE

REQUIREMENTS:
ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION GROUPS COUNT FOR 35% OF FINAL GRADE; TRIPS TO SIENA AND BIBLIOTECA LAURENZIANA ARE MANDATORY AND COUNT FOR FINAL GRADE.
MID-TERM (PASS OR FAIL) FOR 30%; FINAL PAPER FOR 35%
PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY ABSENCE WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT YOUR COURSE GRADE. (STUDENTS CAN REFER TO THE ATTENDANCE POLICY STATED IN THE ACADEMIC POLICIES ON THEIR USB KEY RECEIVED AT ORIENTATION)
MID-TERM P/F EXAM ON NOVEMBER 8 BY NOVEMBER 22 STUDENTS MUST HAVE DISCUSSED PAPER’S TOPICS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.
THE FINAL PAPER (10 PAGES MINIMUM) MUST BE HANDED IN DECEMBER 16 (HARD COPY+DIGITAL).
SYLLABUS

SEPTEMBER 6: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
  DANTE’S LIFE AND TIMES; HELL I-III
SEPTEMBER 13: HELL V AND DANTE’S EARLY LOVE POETRY
SEPTEMBER 17: IX-XVII FRIENDS AND TEACHERS
SEPTEMBER 20: ULYSSES
SEPTEMBER 27: HELL’S BOTTOM: UGOLINO AND SATAN

OCTOBER 4 INTRODUCTION TO PURGATORIO
OCTOBER 11 PURGATORIO I-III
OCTOBER 18 PURGATORIO X ;XIX.

NOVEMBER 8 MIDTERM +PURGATORIO XXI-XXII (STATIUS)
NOVEMBER 15-22 PURGATORIO XXV-XXIX
NOVEMBER 29 INTRODUCTION TO PARADISO (CANTI I; X)

DECEMBER 6 PARADISO XXI-XXXIII