The major author studied in this course will be Dante, with selected readings in his early works (Convivio and Monarchia) and focus on the Divine Comedy. We will also read from Virgil’s Aeneid, Thomas Aquinas, “Song of Songs” from the Hebrew Bible, and other selections found in the appendix to Esolen’s translation.

**Texts**

**Reader**

**Time:** 10:30-12 TR  
**Meeting Place:** Giedt 1007  
**Requirements:** Attendance, participation, reading, two five-page papers, and a final exam. Possible topics for essays include Dante and the ancient world (poetry, philosophy, or politics); Dante and nature; Dante and interpretive strategies; Dante and the visual arts; reception of Dante (by poets, writers, artists, etc. in any period, any culture, any language); Dante outside the medieval context; Dante’s imagery; and whatever else you can imagine.  
**Grades** based on papers (25% first paper; 30% second paper), participation 10% and 35% for the final.


**Week I** (March 29-31)

Background to Dante’s Comedy and reading strategies; slides and web support.  
Readings: Virgil’s Aeneid, Appendix A, Esolen; Visio Sancti Pauli, Appendix B, Esolen; Thomas Aquinas, Appendix C; Monarchia, Convivio, Boniface VII, Unam Sanctam (Appendix D, E, F in Esolen, Inferno). I EXPECT YOU TO HAVE READ ALL THESE ITEMS BEFORE THE END OF WEEK 2.


**Week 2** (April 5-7)  
To be discussed: Inferno 1-10.

**Week 3** (April 12-14)
To be discussed: *Inferno*, 11-24
Homework: Read *Inferno* 25-end; Appendix G, *Inferno*.

**Week 4** (April 19-21)
To be discussed: *Inferno* 25-end
Homework: Read *Purgatorio* 1-10; Appendix D, E, *Purgatorio*.

**Week 5** (April 26-28)
**First Paper due**
To be discussed: *Purgatorio* 1-10.

**Week 6** (May 3-5)
To be discussed: *Purgatorio* 11-22
Homework: *Song of Songs*, *Purgatorio* 23-end; Appendix C, *Purgatorio*.

**Week 7** (May 10-12)
To be discussed: *Purgatorio* 23-end.
Homework: *Paradiso* 1-10.

**Week 8** (May 17-19)
To be discussed: *Paradiso* 1-10.
Homework: *Paradiso* 11-22; Appendix D, *Paradiso*.

**Paper # 2 due**

**Week 9** (May 24-26)
To be discussed: *Paradiso* 11-22.
Homework: *Paradiso* 23-end; Appendix E, *Paradiso*.

**Week 10** (May 31-June 2)
To be discussed: *Paradiso* 23-end.

**Final Take-Home Exam due via e-mail attachment: June 9, 8PM.**