

INSTRUCTOR: BRENDA SCHILDGEN (bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu)

811 Sproul Hall

Office hours: 1-2 T, 2-3 R, and by appt.

Comparative Literature 167

Comparative Study of Major Authors: Dante

Spring, 2011

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

Anthony Esolen, trans. Inferno (New York: Random House, 2005).

Anthony Esolen, trans. Purgatorio (New York: Random House, 2005).

Anthony Esolen, trans. Paradiso (New York: Random House, 2005).

Reader

Recommended: Cambridge Companion to Dante, ed. Rachel Jacoff (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).

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.

WEB SITE: <http://www.dantesociety.org>. See links to **Danteworlds, The World of Dante, and Dante Today**.

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.

Homework: Read Inferno 1-10; Appendix A, Esolen, "Letter to Can Grande della Scala," Paradiso; Appendix B Visio sancti Pauli, Inferno.

Week 2 (April 5-7)

To be discussed: Inferno 1-10.

Homework: Inferno, 11-24.

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.

Homework: Purgatorio 11-23, Appendix A, Purgatorio.

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.