

ENG 320
 Prof. J. Haas
 MWF 1-1:50
 Palmer 208

Office hrs: MW 2-3 & by appt.
 Office: 406 Halliburton Twr
 X3076; haasj

DANTE 'S DIVINE COMEDY



“Love, which absolves no one beloved from loving, seized me so strongly
 with his charm that, as thou seest, it does not leave me yet.”
 --*Inferno*, Canto V

This course will focus on the work of Dante Alighieri, the fourteenth-century Italian poet who translated his vision of the Christian afterlife into his epic poem *The Divine Comedy*, and whose work has had a profound influence on English writers from Chaucer to T.S. Eliot. We will read a few of the works that Dante read—including parts of Virgil’s *Aeneid* and Augustine’s *Confessions*—and we will follow the thread of one of Dante’s preoccupations: the body and its relation to love, language, sin, and salvation. **All readings and discussion will be in English.**

Required Texts (available at the Rhodes College Bookstore)

Vita Nuova. Trans. Musa (Oxford World’s Classics)
Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso. Trans. Hollander (Anchor)
 Virgil, *The Aeneid*. Trans. Mandelbaum (Bantam Classics)

Moodle (M) Selected readings. Students are responsible for printing out individual copies of moodle readings and bringing them to class. Make sure you have access to a reliable printer.

Recommended

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers
 The New Oxford Annotated Bible

Graded Work (All writing for this class must make use of the MLA style of documentation and citation)

Paper 1 (2-3 pages)	15%
Paper 2 (3-5 pages)	20%
Paper 3 (3-5 pages)	20%
Paper 4 (10-15 pages/research paper)	30%
Presentations	5%
Participation (including moodle posts)	10%

Participation: This course is an advanced literature seminar. The active and engaged participation of every member of the class is expected.

Presentations: In addition to informal, everyday participation, **each student will sign up in groups of two to present an explication and analysis of a specific canto.**

Moodle posts: one moodle is due post per week on any aspect of the week’s reading.

Policies:

- All assigned reading and writing is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned unless otherwise noted.
- Always bring the assigned text(s) to class; repeated failure to do so will cause you to be marked absent.
- Be on time: repeated or chronic lateness will count as absence.
- Turn in your work on time: late papers will be penalized **a third of a letter grade per day**. Except in the case of documented illness or family emergency (and by prior arrangement with me), papers more than a week late will receive a failing grade.
- Extensions: under special circumstances I may grant extensions on papers, but I will **only** consider requests made **in advance of the due date**. If you need an extension, you must contact me **at least one class period before** the paper is due; however, this does not guarantee that I will grant you an extension. Requests made for extensions on the day a paper is due will not be entertained.
- Absences: more than three absences will adversely affect your grade; more than five absences is grounds for failing the course.
- **Email is not an appropriate medium for requesting extensions or any other kind of dispensation.**
- Intellectual honesty: don't plagiarize. All suspected cases of plagiarism will be directed to the Honor Council. If you are found to have plagiarized, you will receive a failing grade, in addition to any penalty determined by the Honor Council.

Elaborations:

Except for extraordinary circumstances that are *clearly* beyond your control (e.g. hospitalization, death in the family, natural disasters) I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. I assume that if you choose to make use of your three "free" absences, you are doing so for a good reason. *Therefore, I do not wish to be informed about the particular reasons you are absent.* Of course, if you do need to use these free absences, you are still responsible for what you missed, and you should expect that any time you miss a class, there will be a detrimental effect on your learning and on your grade.

The syllabus is not set in stone. The schedule of readings will undoubtedly be subject to fine-tuning as we proceed. I will announce any upcoming alterations to the schedule in class. **If you miss a class, make sure you check with a classmate to get notes and confirm the next assignment.**

Email etiquette: Compose your email messages with the care that you would bring to writing a formal letter. *Always* proofread your email message before sending. I am happy to answer quick questions over email as my time permits, but you need to make sure that you have used your own resources (like the syllabus or the college web page) first. *If there is something you need to discuss or negotiate, you need to do it in person or, failing that, over the phone.* In order to prevent email from interrupting my own work, I generally set aside one part of the day to responding to it rather than monitoring it throughout the day. Except under unusual circumstances, I do not respond to student email on weekends and holidays. If you send me an email over the weekend, I will respond to it on Monday. I reserve the right to ignore email messages that fail to abide by the basic rules of etiquette.

Plagiarism is the borrowing of language or ideas from another writer without proper citation. It may be intended or unintended, but in either case, it constitutes a breach of the Honor Code. If in doubt, see me, see the Writing Center, and/or consult the Honor Council website. It goes without saying **that all work for this class must be done in compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.**

Eng 320 – Schedule of assignments (subject to adjustment as needed)

W 8/25 Introductions

F 8/27 Dante, *Vita Nuova*, Introduction and Books 1-20

M 8/30 *Vita Nuova*, finish entire

W 9/1 Augustine, *Confessions* Books 1-2; Book 3, chaps 1-9; Book 5, chaps 19-20; Book 6, chaps 11-13; Book 8; chaps 10-12, 29-30 (on moodle)

F 9/3 *Aeneid* Books 1-3

M 9/6 Labor Day

W 9/8 *Aeneid* Books 4 and 6

F 9/10 *Inferno* 1-2, Letter to Can Grande (moodle)

M 9/13 *Inferno* 3-4
Virgil, Eclogue 4 (moodle)

W 9/15 *Inferno* 5, courtly love selections (moodle)

F 9/17 *Inferno* 6-8

M 9/20 Dante, *De vulgari eloquentia* (moodle)

W 9/22 *Inferno* 9; rime petrose, selections (on moodle)
Paper #1 due

F 9/24 *Inferno* 10-12

M 9/27 *Inferno* 13-16

W 9/29 *Inferno* 17-19

F 10/1 *Inferno* 20-23

M 10/4 *Inferno* 24-26

W 10/6 *Inferno* 27-29

F 10/8 *Inferno* 30-32

M 10/11 *Inferno* 33-34

W 10/13 *Purg.* 1-2; [LeGoff chapter 1]

F 10/15 *Purg.* 3, 5, 6

M 10/18 **Fall Break/Grades due**

W 10/20 *Purg.* 9-10

F 10/22 **Paper #2 due**, reading TBD

M 10/25 *Purg* 11-12

W 10/27 *Purg* 16-17

F 10/29 *Purg.* 19, 21, 22

M 11/1 *Purg.* 24-26

W 11/3 *Purg* 30-31

F 11/5 *Purg.* 32-33

M 11/8 *Par.* 1-2

W 11/10 *Par.* 4, 6, 10

F 11/12 *Par.* 11-12

M 11/15 *Par.* 15-16; **Paper # 3 due**

W 11/17 *Par.* 17-19

F 11/19 *Par* 21-22. research topic/question due—post on moodle by 5pm.

M 11/22 *Par.* 24-26

W 11/24 Thanksgiving

F 11/26 Thanksgiving

M 11/29 *Par.* 27-29

W 12/1 *Par.* 30-31;

Final paper proposal (200 words) and list of 5 secondary sources

F 12/3 *Par.* 32-33

M 12/6 TBD

W 12/8 TBA

Research paper due: Friday Dec. 10 by 5:30 pm.