

UC 10343 09F

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

APPROVED NOV 18 2009

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
 Core Category: WI-ID Effective Fall 2010

81

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
 Effective Fall RECEIVED SEP 29 2009

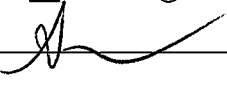
- Department: MCL College: CLASS
- Faculty Contact Person: Alessandro Carrera Telephone: 33069 Email: acarrera@uh.edu
- Course Information on New/Revised course:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
ITAL / 4308 / Dante and His World
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
ITAL / 4308 / DANTE AND HIS WORLD
 - SCH: 3.00 Level: SR CIP Code: 1609020001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0
- Justification for adding/changing course: To provide for new discipline areas
- Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No
 If Yes, please complete:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
____ / ____ / ____
 - Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____
- Authorized Degree Program(s): B.A. Italian Studies
 - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
 - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
 - Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No (if yes, include in course description)
- Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: seminar (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)
- If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
 ____ / ____ / ____
 - Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____
- Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: English 1304 Description (30 words max.): The life and times of Dante Alighieri, his major works, impact on Western culture, and legacy today. Taught in English.
- Dean's Signature: _____ Date: 9/28/09
 Print/Type Name: Dr. Sarah Fishman

U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N
CORE CURRICULUM COURSE REQUEST

Originating Department/College: MCL/CLASS

Person making request: Alessandro Carrera Telephone: 3-3069

E-mail: acarrera@uh.edu

Dean's signature:  Date: 9/28/09

I. General Information:

Course number and title: ITAL 4308: Dante and His World

Catalog description must be included on completed CBM 003 form and attached to this document.

Category of Core for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

- Communication
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
- American History
- Government
- Humanities
- Visual/Performing Arts Critical
- Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
- Natural Sciences
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Writing in the Disciplines (IDO)

II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):

Call ext. 3-0919 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see **Guidelines**). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.

Students will improve their writing skills by answering essay-questions that require analysis of literary texts, historical events, and aesthetic judgment of related works of art. This course is writing intensive, involving initial and final drafts and a final research paper at the end of the semester, with faculty feedback on paper drafts.

- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.

Students submit writing assignments, including weekly discussion postings throughout the semester and receive detailed feedback of their progress prior to submitting the final versions of their work. If necessary, additional support will be provided by the instructor either to individual students or the class as a whole in regard to research tools/methodologies as well as writing proficiency. This may include recommending consultation with writing center staff, subject librarians or technological support specialists. At the end, of the semester, students will be asked to self-evaluate the progress they have made in mastering their research and writing.

C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

Student feedback, as well as effectiveness of current assignments and support provided will be taken into consideration when the course is offered in subsequent semesters. Adjustments will be made if necessary to provide more effective instruction. If the students agree, the best student papers will appear on the course webpage and thus become available as models for quality student work in subsequent classes.

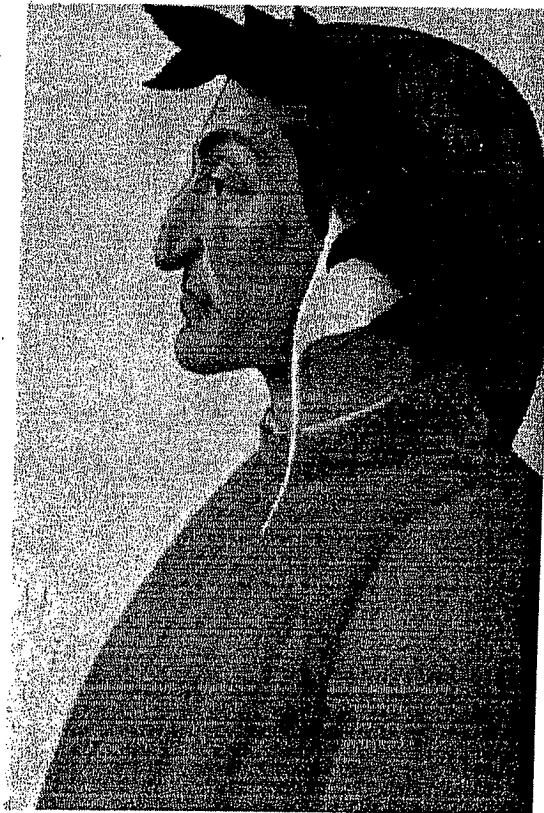
SVP. Effective 5/2/08. Replaces all previous forms, which may no longer be used.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES
ITALIAN 4308

DANTE AND HIS WORLD

Taught in English – Core: Writing in the Disciplines
Counts toward Major and Minor in Italian
if papers are written in Italian

Prof. Alessandro Carrera – Director of Italian Studies
AH 418 – Tel.: (713) 743-3069 – Fax (713) 743-2693
<acarrera@uh.edu> -- <http://www.class.uh.edu/mcl/>



Dante Alighieri. Portrait by Sandro Botticelli, 1495

The course provides an introduction to the major poetical works of Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). Students will be taught how to read and understand the cultural complexity of the *New Life* and the *Divine Comedy*. In addition to the necessary historical background of Dante's life and times, the course will widen its scope including some contemporary works of art, from literature, to cinema and theatre that have kept alive Dante's legacy in the contemporary world.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will acquire basic knowledge of the life and works of one of the most significant poets of all time, and will learn how to read his poetry and discuss it with competence.
- Students will learn how artists and thinkers in different fields have reacted to Dante's work and drawn inspiration from him to represent the changing reality of the contemporary world.
- Students will be able to demonstrate analytical and critical skills in a breadth of topics related to Dante's works and Dante's impact on Western culture.
- Students will improve their writing skills by answering essay-questions that require analysis of literary texts, historical events, and aesthetic judgment of related works of art. They will also be asked to provide a final research paper.

Textbooks

- 1) Dante, *Vita nuova*. Trans. Mark Musa. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN-10: 0192839357.
- 2) Dante, *The Divine Comedy (Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso)*. Trans. A. Mandelbaum. Everyman's Library, 1995. ISBN-10: 0679433139.
- 3) Guy P. Raffa. *The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the Divine Comedy*. University of Chicago Press, 2009. ISBN-10: 0226702707.
- 4) Rachel Jacoff (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Dante*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN-10: 0521605814.

Additional readings and visual material provided by the instructor:

- 1) Greenaway, Peter, *Dante's Inferno* (1993) [Film to be shown in class].
- 2) Levi, Primo. From: *Survival in Auschwitz* (1947): "The Canto of Ulysses"
- 3) Giuseppe De Liguoro, *L'inferno* (1911) [Film to be shown in class].
- 4) Eliot, T. S. *The Waste Land*. Norton Critical Edition. Norton, 2000 (excerpts).
- 5) Eugenio Montale, *The Prisoner's Dream and Little Testament* (1956).
- 6) Godard, Jean-Luc: *Notre Musique* (2003) [Film excerpts to be shown in class].
- 7) Roberto Benigni, *L'ultimo del Paradiso* (2004) [Italian TV Production to be shown in class].

Assignments

Three Papers, minimum 1000 word each. The Final Paper must come as close as possible to a research paper. Students are strongly encouraged to start working on their final paper with reasonable advance to give the instructor time to revise the first drafts.

Grades

Participation: 10%
Paper One: 25%
Paper Two: 25%
Final Paper: 40%

Grading Scale

93-100	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F

Prerequisites

ENGLISH 1304. ITAL 2302 is a prerequisite for students majoring or minoring in Italian Studies. Italian majors and minors will be required to write their tests in Italian. Students who do not pursue a major or a minor in Italian Studies will conduct all required work in English.

Important: Minors in Italian need to keep in mind that the absolute prerequisite for enrollment in Italian at the 3000 or 4000 level is the completion of Italian 2302. The rule applies even when the 3000 level course is taught in English, since Minors are supposed to write their term papers in Italian. The only exception is Italian 3336, which is mandatory for every Minor regardless of their language level, and does not require papers in Italian.

Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. More than four absences, if not substantially motivated, put the student at risk of being dropped out. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments before the following class and bring the textbooks that are required. Students are expected to answer questions about the texts and participate in the discussion. Papers are due on time.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty that consists of passing off another's words as one's own. Sanctions for infractions of plagiarism are serious, and may result in failing an assignment, failing a course, and being placed on academic probation. You may, of course, consult other sources for your papers in this course. However, you must cite all of those sources in a bibliography. If you use another person's words or thoughts in whole or in part in your papers, be sure that your work clearly acknowledges your sources.

Repetition of Papers Used in Other courses

Papers written for another class cannot be used to fulfill the requirements for this course. This will be considered an act of *academic dishonesty*. If you would like to incorporate fragments from a paper written for a different course, you need to obtain written authorization from the professor of that course and from me. If you do not comply with this regulation, you will be facing sanctions ranging from your grade on the paper being lowered to failing this class.

Submitting Papers and Turnitin.com

All students must submit a hard copy of their papers to me AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on the due date. You must also upload an electronic version of this exact same paper to turnitin.com BEFORE the beginning of class on the paper's due date. Papers uploaded to turnitin.com after class time will be considered late, even if you submit a hard copy of your paper on time to me in class. If you do not yet have a turnitin.com account, you must create one immediately (it is free for students). The information that you will need to submit papers for this class consists of the following:

Course Number:

Password:

You will not receive a grade for any paper until it is uploaded to turnitin.com.

Cell-free and wireless-free environment

Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted in class. If you use your laptop to take notes, you are not allowed to check your email during class, and must turn off your computer's wireless connection. Your participation grade for the semester will be lowered for every instance of unauthorized text messaging or email checking, or if your phone rings during class. If there is a good reason why you must leave your phone on during class, please tell the instructor before class begins. Excessive use of your cell phone or other wireless devices constitutes disruptive behavior. It is disrespectful to the class and may lead to you being dropped from this course.

Grade Guide for Papers

A Offers an original and detailed argument that demonstrates that you have thoroughly understood the text(s)/film(s) you are writing about. The introduction attracts the reader's attention, the ideas presented within the body paragraphs are specific and well-developed, these ideas make the reader think differently about the subject or the text/film presented, and the conclusion does more than summarize the contents of the paper. Transitions are fluid, ideas are presented directly and do not rely on generalizations, and there is no unnecessary verbiage that obscures meaning. Nothing is cliché in an "A" paper.

B Attests to a good, general understanding of the text(s)/film(s) you are writing about, and offers a plausible though uninteresting argument that lacks specificity or originality. Ideas need further development, and there are some structural or organizational problems (an introduction that isn't clear, ideas that don't always flow well), but these problems do not make any parts of the paper unreadable. Some vocabulary is used inappropriately. Overall, a solid piece of writing that lacks creativity.

C A lot of the ideas presented in the paper rely on clichés and generalizations to make their point, they aren't well-developed, and/or they attest to a poor understanding of the text(s)/film(s) you are writing about. There is no argument or the argument presented is totally implausible. There are mistakes about important details in the text(s)/film(s). Problems with organization, with language use, or with structure make understanding the paper difficult.

D Shows that you didn't understand the paper topic or the text(s)/film(s) you are writing about. The paper lacks cohesion, ideas are poorly developed, and grammar mistakes make the paper unreadable. Unacceptable work for a student at the university level.

F An offensive, unreadable, or incomplete paper.

**Italian 4308
Dante and His World
Weekly Schedule**

- I. Introduction. *The New Life*. Video: *Dante: The Journey of Our Life*
- II. The young Dante and his friendship with Guido Cavalcanti. *The New Life*.
- III. *The New Life* and the poetry of the "sweet new style."
- IV. Dante's life between *The New Life* and *The Divine Comedy*.
- V. Introduction to *The Divine Comedy*. The structure of "Inferno." Cantos I-II
- VI. The "Inferno": Cantos III to VIII.
- VII. **First Paper is due.** Cantos IX-X. Peter Greenaway's film, *Dante's Inferno*.
- VIII. Selections from "Inferno", Cantos XXVI-XXXIV." Primo Levi's re-reading of Dante's Ulysses. Giuseppe De Liguoro's silent film, *L'Inferno*.
- IX. The Structure of Purgatory: Cantos I-VI
- X. Purgatory: Cantos VII-X
- XI. Purgatory: Canto XXIV; Cantos XXVIII-XXXIII
- XII. Paradise: Cantos I-IV.
- XIII. **Second Paper is due.** The Structure of Paradise: Cantos I-III.
- XIV. Paradise: Cantos XXX-XXXIII. Modern poems inspired by Dante: *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot (1922), and Eugenio Montale *The Prisoner's Dream* and *Little Testament* (1956).
- XV. Paradise: Cantos XXX-XXXIII. A film inspired by the *Divine Comedy*: *Notre Musique* by Jean-Luc Godard (2003). *L'ultimo del Paradiso* by Roberto Benigni (TV production).

Final Paper