

LIT 201: The Literary Tradition: Dante and the High Middle Ages

Fall 2023 (M,W,F 10:25-11:15; RM 200)

Childs; mchilds@smac.edu; x201

Office hours: by appointment

Course Description and Purpose Statement:

Primarily a study of Dante's *The Divine Comedy* as a poem of pilgrimage that also expresses the culmination of the Middle Ages and a movement toward the Renaissance. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the literature in class discussions, written compositions, and exams.

Policy Points of Note:

- I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Please come; it is the best way to get something out of the course. Any work missed because of an **unexcused** absence will receive a zero and cannot be made up—this includes work that was due that day. If you have five or more unexcused absences during the semester, I reserve the right to assign you an F for the class.
- Quizzes will generally be given at the beginning of class at least once a week. They may or may not be announced and will demand short written commentary on the material of the previous class or your reading. They are meant to keep you engaged and in the habit of taking and reviewing notes and will never last more than ten minutes.
- Assignments are due at class meeting time on the due date. You will lose a letter grade for each day an assignment is late, and a zero if it is five or more days late. I will be very flexible with you on extensions, **but only if you ask for one more than 24 hours in advance of the due date**. Please work and think ahead and let me know if you need help and/or more time.
- **No electronic devices are allowed in the classroom**—whether powered on or off. If I see one, I will confiscate it and turn it over to the academic dean; if you catch me with one, I will drop the lowest grade of every student in the class. Let's respect and pay attention to each other whenever we are together.

Plagiarism Reminder:

- NEVER present another author's published words or idea/s as if they were your own. To do so is plagiarism, which is a crime, essentially stealing AND lying, misrepresenting someone else's work as your own—see the College catalog for the serious consequences of committing this crime. If you wish to use a published comment to support your own argument, please do so, either in a direct quote or a paraphrase, but in either case, give the author credit by mentioning where you found the quote and the author's name in the context of the quote or in a parenthetical citation. [See the MLA guidelines for parenthetical citations in this Handbook.]
- NEVER consult a paper-writing service in person or on the internet, including ChatGPT or anything of its kind. These "services" will not help you to develop as a writer and, in fact, pose a moral threat, a temptation to sin by fraudulently presenting as your own what is the composition of another, which is plagiarism. Do not rely upon voice recognition software to enter your work accurately on the computer.

Grading:

Essays:	35%
Exams:	30%
Final Exam:	15%
Quizzes:	10%
Class Participation:	10%

The Plan

Sep 5:	Introduction; <i>Vita Nuova</i> (1-4; 23; 28-31; 40-42); <i>Inferno</i>	
Sep 11:	<i>Inferno</i>	
Sep 18:	<i>Inferno</i>	
Sep 25:	<i>Inferno</i>	
Oct 2:	<i>Inferno</i>	<i>Inferno</i> Exam
Oct 9:	<i>Purgatorio</i>	
Oct 16:	<i>Purgatorio</i>	Essay 1 Due
Oct 23:	<i>Purgatorio</i>	
Oct 30:	<i>Purgatorio</i>	Oct 30-Nov 1: No classes
Nov 6:	<i>Purgatorio</i>	<i>Purgatorio</i> Exam
Nov 13:	<i>Paradiso</i>	
Nov 20:	<i>Paradiso</i>	Nov 22-27: Thanksgiving
Nov 27:	<i>Paradiso</i>	Essay 2 Due – <i>Research Paper</i> – <i>Critical Response</i>
Dec 4:	<i>Paradiso</i>	Dec 8: No classes
Dec 11:	<i>Paradiso</i>	Dec 14-15: No classes
Dec 16-20:	Final Examinations	
Dec 21-Jan 14:	Christmas Break	