

**FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Number 315 N	Course Title Dante's Divine Comedy
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Fall Semester	Spring Semester xxxxxxxxxxxx	Summer Semester	Year 2007
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Name of Instructor Dr. B. Alexander
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Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number Mon—6 pm
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Office Hours: Egan 273 virtual office: bbaben@aol.com office hrs: t/th tba mon: 5:20- 6:00pm and by appointment

1. BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE

To examine closely representative portions of the Divine Comedy and to look at its impact on other writers and philosophers, especially how the poem influences literature.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES Upon successful completion of this course, students will be expected to: be familiar with the major issues of the Commedia and its influence on literature.

3. TEACHING METHOD (lecture, laboratory, audio-visual, clinical experience, discussion)

Lecture and Socratic dialogue entailing individual responses to close reading of texts; discussion, paper presentation, and individual reports.

4. GRADING POLICY (i.e., number of graded assignments, weight given to each):

- weekly thirty to forty min tests or shorter essays based on the reading —60%
- intelligent class participation, recitation, breaking through existential malaise of silent observation
5%
- outside reading project –preparation of questions given out 20%
- final exam (with some outside reading questions) 15%

5. **Attendance policy:** you should not take this course unless you plan to come to class. It would be most difficult for you to master this material sufficiently on your own. More than two excused absences will result in lower marks and a final grade. The same principle applies to attending and leaving class. Do not interrupt class by coming in late or leaving early. These patterns are very distracting and will not be tolerated. (If you leave at the break, you will be penalized and your grade lowered.)

You are given two excused cuts without your grade suffering adversely. More than one cut will result in lowered final grade as much as letter grade. Excused absences are those involving legitimate conflicts. Please consult with your professor about such matters well prior to your absence, as well as other problems that might arise that prevent your being in class.

The instructor is available for consultation about your work, but you should not wait until late in the semester. IF you have a problem or weakness, work on the problem early in the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTS*****

M. Pearl, the Dante Club

Dante, Inferno (Oxford, trans. Sinclair)

Dante, Purgatorio (Oxford, trans. Sinclair)

Dante, Paradiso (Oxford, trans. Sinclair)

Dore, Dante Illustrations (suggested)

7 CLASS SCHEDULE (List topics to be covered with approximate dates of presentation)

complete list forthcoming

Jan. 14— Intro comments and getting started reading

Jan 21—Dante, Inferno, cantos, 1-8

(outside reading; Pearl, the Dante Club and Divine Comedy complete)

Jan. 28—test; Dante, Inferno, cantos, 1-15

(outside reading; Pearl, the Dante Club and Divine Comedy complete)

Feb. 4-- test Dante, Inferno, cantos, 16-21

(outside reading; Pearl, the Dante Club and Divine Comedy complete)

Feb. 11—test, Dante, Inferno, cantos, 22-27

(outside reading; Pearl, the Dante Club and Divine Comedy complete)

Feb. 18--test Dante, Purgatorio (Sinclair), cantos, 1-6

(outside reading; Pearl, the Dante Club and Divine Comedy complete)

Feb. 25-- test Dante, Purgatorio (Sinclair), cantos, 7-14; one hour discussion of outside reading; Pearl, the Dante Club)

Mar. 10-- 30 min. test over first 250 pps, Dante Club; Purgatorio, cantos 7-14

Mar. 19—Spring break

March 30-April 1—test; **discussion Paradise, thru Canto 12 (outside reading, Divine Comedy complete; Dante Club; article prep)**

April 6-8— Holy Week: Review Inferno cantos 1-19; Sins of treachery and the betrayal of the Lord: Inferno, canto 28, Inferno; 31-34 (outside reading, Divine Comedy complete; Dante Club article prep)

April 13-16— part I of article exercise, 2 page quote sheet due by noon on Tues. at Dr. Alexander's office, Egan; Wed-- 40 min; test; Paradiso, cantos 1-17 ; (outside reading, Divine Comedy complete; Dante Club)

April 20—22: no class Monday or Wednesday, complete article exercise due on Wed, April 22 with an email stamp of 5 pm; send as an attachment via email: hard copy will be turned in at Dr. Alexander's office by 6 pm. **(outside reading, Divine Comedy complete; Dante Club)**

April 27-29— Paradiso, cantos, 23-33 (outside reading, Divine Comedy complete; Dante Club)