

# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Reading Dante's "Divine Comedy" - 19898*

*Last update 15-08-2019*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: General & Compar. Literature*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Gur Zak*

*Coordinator Email: [gur.zak@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:gur.zak@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tue. 15-16*

*Teaching Staff:*

---

Dr. Gur Zak

Course/Module description:

Dante's "Divina Commedia" is undoubtedly one of the most influential works in World literature. In this course we shall undertake a close reading of the second Cantic of the work - the "Purgatorio". Each week we shall read together two or three cantos (reading the Hebrew translation side by side with the original Italian), alongside several contemporary critical essays. Among the themes we shall focus on in our analysis are: the autobiographical nature of the work and the complex relationship between Dante the author and Dante the pilgrim, the representations of emotions in the work - especially compassion, the ways Dante constructs his poetic authority, his views of the ethical role of poetry, and his complex attitude towards the classical world

Course/Module aims:

Close reading of Dante's masterpiece

Acquaintance with central contemporary critical perspectives on the Commedia

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Demonstrate deep knowledge of the "Commedia", particularly the "Purgatorio"

Demonstrate deep knowledge of contemporary critical perspectives on the work

Analyse in an informed and critical manner a literary masterpiece from the Middle Ages

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Shared reading of the "Purgatorio"

Required Reading:

Dante, "Purgatorio", in La divina commedia

---

Additional Reading Material:

*Albert R. Ascoli, Dante and the Making of a Modern Author (Cambridge, 2008)*

*Teodolinda Barolini, The Undivine Comedy: Detheologizing Dante (Princeton, 1992)*

*Rachel Jacoff and Jeffrey Schnapp, The Poetry of Allusion: Virgil and Ovid in Dante's Commedia (Princeton, 1991).*

*John Freccero, In Dante's Wake: Reading from Medieval to Modern in the Augustinian Tradition (Fordham, 2015)*

*Giuseppe Ledda (ed.), Dante poeta cristiano e la cultura religiosa medievale (Ravenna, 2018)*

*Simone Marchesi, Dante and Augustine: Linguistics, Poetics, Hermeneutics (Toronto, 2011)*

*Giuseppe Mazzotta, Reading Dante (Yale, 2014)*

*Justin Steinberg, Dante and the Limits of the Law (Chicago, 2013)*

*Heather Webb, Dante's Persons: An Ethics of the Transhuman (Oxford, 2016)*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*

*Project work 80 %*

*Assignments 10 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information: