

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Dante's purgatory between East and West - 45828*

*Last update 29-03-2015*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* Department of Romance and Latin American Studies

*Academic year:* 1

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* English

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr Domenico Agostini

*Coordinator Email:* [agostinidomenico@gmail.com](mailto:agostinidomenico@gmail.com)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* WED 14,30-15

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Teaching Staff:

Domenico Agostini

Course/Module description:

The use of the word Purgatory (Latin Purgatorium) as well as its understanding as a place rose just at the end of 12th century. However the idea of a transitional condition in the afterlife has a history that dates even before the current era. The description of the Purgatory reaches its highest manifestation in the work of Dante. Here it has place in the physical universe and embodies several varied traditions and accounts.

Course/Module aims:

Starting from the reading of Dante's Purgatory this course will try to present the literary birth of this idea in focusing moreover on the most relevant and related ancient and medieval literary sources from East to West.

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

To manage the main historical and literary sources of Purgatory tackled during the class and to be able to imagine a comparative way of understanding also in adding literary sources issued from their field of studies.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lecture

Course/Module Content:

- 1) Introduction to Dante's life
- 2) Introduction to Divine Comedy
- 3) The concept of Afterlife in Near Eastern world.
- 4) The Purgatory of Dante and the precursors
- 5) Reading of cantos of Purgatory with comparative commentary on other perceptions of Purgatory:

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Cantos 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25, 27, 30, 31, 33

Required Reading:

Agostini, D. (2014), *Encountering a Beautiful Maiden: On the Zoroastrian dēn in Comparison with Dante's Beatrice*, *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 24, 15-23

Auerbach, E. (2011),  
"The presentation", *Dante's Divine Comedy*, H. Bloom (ed.). New York-Philadelphia,  
pp. 33-55 (folio BA in Moodle file

"Dante", *Hebrew Encyclopaedia (in Hebrew)*, pp. 849-863.

Le Goff J. (1984), *The birth of Purgatory*, Chicago

Mazzotta, G. (2007). "The life of Dante", *The Cambridge Companion to Dante*, R. Jacoff (ed.). Cambridge, 1-13.

Morgan, A. (1990), "The mountain of Purgatory", *Dante and the Medieval Other World*. Cambridge, pp. 144-165

Schnapp, J.T. (2007), "Introduction to Purgatorio", *The Cambridge Companion to Dante*, R. Jacoff (ed.). Cambridge, pp. 91-106

Additional Reading Material:

*Divina Commedia: Purgatorio*. The Princeton Dante project.  
<http://etcweb.princeton.edu/dante/index.html>

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 85 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 15 %

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*Additional information:*

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