



SYLLABUS

PALAZZI FLORENCE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS SQUOLA - CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN STUDIES (IT)

SCHOOL OF ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN LITERATURE

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN CULTURAL STUDIES

COURSE TITLE: DANTE ALIGHIERI'S FLORENCE: READINGS AND CULTURAL WALKS

COURSE CODE: ISILDF340; ISISDF340

3 Semester Credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course will examine excerpts of Dante Alighieri's greatest passages from the Divine Comedy and other works in relation to the space and history of Florence. Textual analyses will be performed, unpacking the dense symbolism and motifs reflective of the intellectual and moral climate during 14th century Florence. Students will visit churches, piazzas, and palaces within the city and will examine these locations in the context of Dante's life and surrounding controversy, the accusations and denunciations in his writings, the physical descriptions of the city, and the characters and historical figures present in his works.

The approach to this course is based on experiencing the city of Florence as the academic space for learning and engagement. Classes are not held in a traditional, front-style setting; each lesson is carefully mapped for curricular content and featured locations: lectures, observations, exercises, analysis, and reflections on presented topics are held in relevant sites that are accounted for in the academic planning, syllabus, and related course material. Coursework and submissions will be regularly assessed through the MyFua platform through weekly assignments in addition to exams, papers, and projects. Learning through the on-site approach fosters a deeper understanding of the cultural environment of Florence and how it is related to the subject of study represented by the course, and allows the overall experience to contribute to the students' academic and personal enrichment.

2. OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the life and writings of the major author of Italian classical literature within the context of an exploration of Florence city center, namely the locations that were relevant during Dante's times. The course will also give students a general overview on the socio-political, economical, and religious background of Florence during the period of Dante's life, as the exploration of the city will also include visits to political and religious buildings of medieval Florence. This will enable students to make connections between past and present Florence, understanding the different layers of history within the city. Since Dante is also considered the father of Italian language, a language component is included in the course to enable students to fully understand the influence of Dante in modern Italian, as well as provide them with a communicative tool to further enhance their experience in Florence.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Describe the main historical and political events of the late 13th and early 14th century in

- Italy and especially in Florence
- Describe and analyze the most important events, facts, and relationships in the life of Dante
- Identify and analyze the main themes, symbolism and characters in Dante's writings
- Recognize the main locations in Florence mentioned in Dante's works, as well as discover the connection between the city and the author
- Be familiar with the main political and religious buildings of Florence city center
- Compare and contrast the 13-14th century Italian values and morals to today's social life in Italy
- Understand the influence of Dante on Italian culture and language
- Have a basic knowledge of the Italian language and engage in simple conversations on everyday topics.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of walks, visits, on-site lectures, and discussions all held within the setting of Florence city center. Florence will be the classroom where students will discover, observe, reflect, analyze, comment, and discuss the assigned topics. The Italian language content will be introduced using the communicative method and will cover thematic material that will be practiced within the local community.

5. TEXT BOOK - FURTHER READINGS - RESOURCES

TEXT BOOK

- Lewis, R.W.B, Dante: A Life (Penguin Lives), Penguin Books, 2009
- Alighieri, Dante *Inferno* (any edition with a verse translation)

The text books are **mandatory** for successful completion of the course. Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

(Books listed below are available in the FUA library)

Works by Dante:

- Alighieri, Dante Inferno, Signet Classics, US, 2001
- Alighieri, Dante The Portable Dante, Penguin Classics, UK, 2003

About Dante and his writings:

- Jacoff, Rachel (ed.) The Cambridge Companion to Dante 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, UK, 2005
- Barolini, Teodolinda Dante and the Origins of Italian Literary Culture, Fordham University Press, US, 2006
- Barolini, Teodolinda *The Undivine Comedy*, Princeton University Press, US, 1992
- Harris, W.T. The Spiritual Sense of Dante's Divina Commedia Kessinger Publishing, US, 2005
- Hubbard, Elbert Dante and Beatrice, Kessinger Publishing, US, 2005
- Reynolds, Barbara *Dante: The Poet, the Political Thinker, the Man*, Gardner Books, UK, 2006
- Rubin, Harriet Dante in Love: The World's Greatest Poem and How It Made History, Simon&Schuster, 2004
- Sartorio, Henry The Mysticism of Dante Kessinger Publishing, US, 2005

Italian Literature:

- Brand Peter and Pertile Lino (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, Cambridge University Press, UK 1999
- Hainsworth, Peter (ed.) The Oxford Companion to Italian Literature Oxford University Press, US, 2003
- Wilkins, Ernest H. A History of Italian Literature: Revised Edition, Harvard University Press, US, 1974

Italian and Florentine history:

- Abulafia, David (ed.) Italy in the Central Middle Ages, Oxford University Press, US, 2004
- Gilmour, David *The Pursuit of Italy: A History of a Land, its Regions and their Peoples* Penguin, UK, 2012
- Hibbert, Christopher Florence: The Biography of a City, Penguin, UK, 1993
- Najemy, John A History of Florence 1200-1575, Blackwell Publishing Professional, US, 2006
- Procacci, Giuliano History of the Italian people, Gardeners Book, UK 2006

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students are also encouraged to take advantage of Florence's libraries and research centers:

Biblioteca Palagio di Parte Guelfa

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation: http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca palagio di parte guelfa/

Biblioteca delle Oblate

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation: www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation and student (fee-based) membership information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES:

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION - GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance 10% Class Participation 15% On-site Assignments 20% Midterm Exam (or field learning/special/research project) 20% Final On-site Project 25% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence** the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence** the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.

Late Arrival and Early Departure

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

Travel (or delays due to travel) is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work and on-site activities, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also applies to site visits.

11. EXAMS - PAPERS - PROJECTS

Refer to the Study Guide at the bottom of this document for specific information.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	TBA
Lecture	Presentation of the course Introduction to the class topics and syllabus. Information on assignments, exams, and projects.
	From the Roman Walls to the Cerchia Antica A historical walk along the former sites of Florence city walls, from ancient Roman

	times to the 13 th century, that will introduce students to the size and structure of Florence, and how it developed from Roman times to the medieval city Dante was born into. Special focus on the Duomo area, the entrance gates and towers of the medieval city, and introduction to the <i>lapidi dantesche</i>
	Sign-up for On-Site Assignments Students will sign up for both the Background Research Expositions (BRE) and the Inferno canti presentations
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to: Introduce the students to the course content and requirements Learn the structure and size of Florence before and during Dante's early years
	 Get a first overview on the evolutions of Florence city walls from the ancient Roman times to the 13th century
	 Get a first introduction to the historical figure of Dante and his importance from 13-14th century Italy to today.
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Duomo area (northern side of Florence ancient walls) - Via de' Cerretani (former site of Mugnone river) - Via Rondinelli and Via Tornabuoni (western side of Florence ancient walls) - Church of Santa Trinita (later incorporated into the <i>cerchia antica</i>) - Borgo Santissimi Apostoli / Via Lambertesca (southern side of Florence ancient walls) - Castello d'Altafronte (ancient castle connected to the <i>cerchia antica</i>) - Via de' Castellani, Via dei Leoni (eastern side of Florence ancient walls) - Via Dante Alighieri 1 (to see the 1 st lapide dantesca)
Language Component	Basic elements of Italian: alphabet, numbers, greetingsIntroducing oneself
Readings/ Assignments for Lesson 2	Lewis, R.W.B. "Chapter ONE" from textbook <i>Dante: A Life</i> Hibbert, C. "Life in Dante's Florence, 1265-1348" in <i>Florence: The Biography of a City</i>
	BREs as assigned in the sign-up calendar

Lesson 2	Lesson 2	
Meet	TBA	
Lecture	Dante and his Florence A walk through the city of Florence during Dante's times: brief history of the city during the 13 th and 14 th century. Students will become acquainted with the medieval Florence architecture, society, and lifestyle. Special focus on the second set of communal city walls, noble families tower-houses and other private and public buildings of medieval Florence.	
	Selected BREs according to calendar	
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to: • Get a general overview on the history of Florence in the 13 th and 14 th century • Become familiar with private and public typical architecture of the time • Understand the world in which Dante lived	
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Borgo San Lorenzo (former entrance to the medieval city through Porta Aquilonia) - Palazzo Davanzati (via Porta Rossa) - Torre de' Buondelmonti (via delle Terme) - Torre degli Amidei (via Por Santa Maria) - Ponte Vecchio (2 lapidi dantesche) - Oltrarno: via Guicciardini, Borgo San Jacopo, Piazza Santo Spirito (new borghi included in the second set of communal walls)	

Language Component	Talking about personal detailsAsking questions: brief interviews to Italians
Readings/	Lewis, R.W.B. "Chapter TWO" from textbook Dante: A Life
Assignments	Pertile, L. "Introduction to Inferno" in The Cambridge Companion to Dante
for Lesson 3	BREs as assigned in the sign-up calendar
	Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar

Lesson 3	
Meet	ТВА
Lecture	Dante's neighborhood and places A walk through young Dante's neighborhood and places to become familiar with the area where Dante was living in his early years. Dante's early life: main events and relationships of the poet within 13-14 th century Florentine society. Introduction to Dante's ancestors, parents, and romantic relationships. Selected BREs according to calendar Inferno presentations according to calendar: Introduction to the canticle + Canto 1-2-3-4-5
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to: • Become familiar with Dante's neighborhood • Learn about the main events in Dante's early life • Learn about Dante's family and ancestors • Get acquainted with Dante's masterpiece La Divina Commedia and its first canticle Inferno
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Piazza della Repubblica (old market) - Via degli Speziali (<i>lapide dantesca</i>) - Via del Corso (beginning of San Pier Maggiore, the scandalous sixth) - Borgo Albizi and Arco di San Pierino (end of San Pier Maggiore sixth) - Via de' Benci (new eastern limit of city walls)
Language Component Readings/ Assignments for Lesson 4	 Ordering in a café: asking prices, asking for the check, quantities, and prices Understanding decimal numbers, making polite requests Mazzotta, G. "Life of Dante" in <i>The Cambridge Companion to Dante</i> BREs as assigned in the sign-up calendar Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar

Lesson 4	
Meet	TBA
Lecture	Dante's most private spaces This walk will take students to visit to the house of Dante in via Santa Margherita. Students will explore the spaces where Dante used to live and the collection of the Museo Casa di Dante. Focus will also be given to Florence Baptistry, where Dante was baptized.
	Selected BREs according to calendar Inferno presentations according to calendar: Canto 6-7-8-9
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to:
	Become familiar with the most private spaces of Dante in his early years

	Learn about further main events in the life of Dante			
	Get a first overview on Dante's impact and influence on modern culture			
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places:			
	- Battistero (where Dante was baptized)			
	- House of Filippo Argenti (via del Corso)			
	- Museo Casa di Dante (via Santa Margherita)			
Language	Describing the house and the rooms of the house			
Component	 Use of c'è VS ci sono with indefinite articles 			
Readings/	Lewis, R.W.B. "Chapter THREE" from textbook Dante: A Life			
Assignments	BREs as assigned in the sign-up calendar			
for Lesson 5	Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar			

Lesson 5	
Meet	ТВА
Lecture	Dante's friends and mentors A walk to the most relevant places connected to Dante's first friend Guido Cavalcanti and his mentor Brunetto Latini. Students will become familiar with the circle of poets Dante belonged to, as well as the influence of Latini's figure on Dante's education and writings. Special focus on the Dolce Stil Novo poets. Selected BREs according to calendar Inferno presentations according to calendar: Canto 10-11-12-13-14-15
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to: Learn about the lives of Guido Cavalcanti and Brunetto Latini Get acquainted with most important cultural models for Dante Understand the influence of Latini and Cavalcanti on Dante's writings Get a first overview on the Dolce Stil Novo poets
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Piazza della Signoria (former tower-houses of Uberti family) - House of the Cavalcanti family (via Calzaiuoli) - Church of Santa Maria Maggiore (Brunetto Latini's tomb) - Church of Santa Maria Novella (where Dante was educated) - Santa Maria Novella train station for the Italian language component
Language Component	 Means of transportation in Italy (train station, bus station, tramvia stop) Asking information about transportation, asking to buy a ticket, understanding signs and timetables
Readings/ Assignments for Lesson 6	Lewis, R.W.B. "Chapter FOUR" from textbook <i>Dante: A Life</i> Usher, J. "Stilnovo" in The Cambridge History of Italian Literature BREs as assigned in the sign-up calendar Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar

Lesson 6	
Meet	TBA
Lecture	Dante in love
	This walk will take the students to the most relevant sites linked to the figure of Beatrice
	Portinari and other members of her family (her father, her nursemaid, and her
,	husband). Students will be introduced to her role as a muse of Dante in both La Vita
	Nuova and The Divine Comedy and will get an overview on the role of women in 13-
	14 th century Italy. The walk will also show how the Portinari family was deeply involved
	in the construction of two main buildings of medieval Florence.

	Selected BREs according to calendar Inferno presentations according to calendar: Canto 16-17-18-19
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to:
	 Learn about the life of Dante's muse Beatrice Portinari and her influence on Dante's personal and artistic life
	Observe the influence of the Portinari family on the development of Florence
	Analyze the character of Beatrice in the most significant works of Dante
	Become familiar other important works in Dante's production (<i>La Vita Nuova</i>) Analyza Danta's at the in his analyzations.
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Analyze Dante's style in his early writings
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places:
	- Beatrice's well (Palazzo Spini-Feroni in Piazza di Santa Trinita)
	- Church of Santa Margherita de' Cerchi (Via Santa Margherita)
	- Palazzo Portinari (Via del Corso)
	- Santa Maria Nuova Hospital
Longuaga	- Oblate Library (via dell'Oriuolo)
Language	Food and beverages vocabulary
Component	Asking for prices and quantities while grocery shopping
Readings/	Preparation for Mid-term exam
Assignments	
for Lesson 7	

Lesson 7	
Meet	
Lecture	MIDTERM EXAM

Lesson 8	
Break	

Lesson 9	
Meet	ТВА
Lecture	Political Florence
	A walk through the most political buildings in Florence, to understand the weight of politics in medieval Florence and Dante's involvement in the city's politics.
	Selected BREs according to calendar
	Inferno presentations according to calendar: Canto 20-21-22-23
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to:
	Become familiar with Florence's political scene during Dante's times
	Learn about the political buildings in different times of medieval Florence
	Analyze Dante's involvement in politics
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places:
	- Torre della Castagna (piazza San Martino – via Dante Alighieri 2)
	- Palazzo del Bargello
	- Via Isole delle Stinche
	- Via delle Burella
	- Palazzo Vecchio and Loggia dei Lanzi
Language	Describing the city: public places, urban settings, and professions

Component	
Readings/	Bolton, B. "Papal Italy" in Italy in the Central Middle Ages
Assignments	Pertile, L. "The contrappasso" in The Cambridge History of Italian Literature
for Lesson 10	BREs as in the sign-up calendar assigned
	Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar

Lesson 10	
Meet	TBA
Lecture	Religious Florence A walk through the most relevant religious buildings and places of worship for Dante. Students will become familiar with Dante's churches and understand the importance of religion and religious institutions during Dante's times. Special focus on Dante's theological system, biblical references and the main religious figures in Dante's Divine Comedy
	Sign-up for Final Project Students will be divided into groups to start preparing the Final Project Selected BREs according to calendar Inferno presentations according to calendar: Canto 24-25-26-27
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to: • Get a general overview of Dante's religious beliefs and theological system • Learn about the most significant churches, convents and other places of worship during Dante's times • Analyze the personal and political importance of religion in the 13-14 th century society
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Church of the Umiliati order (Piazza Ognissanti) - Church of San Martino al Vescovo (Piazza San Martino) - Badia Fiorentina (via del Proconsolo) - Le Murate for the Italian language component
Language Component	 Describing people: physical appearance and personality Focus: adjectives, nouns and definite articles
Readings/ Assignments for Lesson 11	Hibbert, C. "Merchants, Guelphs and Ghibellines" and "Blacks and Whites" in Florence: The Biography of a City BREs as in the sign-up calendar assigned Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar

Lesson 11	
Meet	ТВА
Lecture	The rise of guilds and new riches A walk dedicated to the most important sites related to Florence guilds and its members (craftsmen, merchants) while Dante was involved in the public life of Florence, and their evolution after his death. Students will also be introduced to the rising of a new social class, defined by Dante as gente nuova. Selected BREs according to calendar Inferno presentations according to calendar: Canto 28-29-30
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to:
-	Get a general overview on Florentine guilds and their organization

	 Learn about the most significant sites connected to the guilds during and after Dante's times Understand and analyze the impact of a new social class emerging in the late 13th early 14th century Florence
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Palagio di Parte Guelfa (Piazza di Parte Guelfa) - Orsanmichele - Palazzo dei Beccai (via Orsanmichele) - Torre de' Galigai (via de' Tavolini) - Palazzo della Mercanzia (Piazza Signoria) - Palazzo dell'Arte dei Notai (via del Proconsolo)
Language Component	 Clothing: asking for items, colors, sizes, and prices when shopping for clothes, shoes, and accessories
Readings/ Assignments for Lesson 12	Lewis, R.W.B. "Chapter FIVE" from textbook <i>Dante: A Life</i> BREs as in the sign-up calendar assigned

Lesson 12	
Meet	ТВА
Lecture	Families at war A walk through the Black and White Guelph families and their political role, influence, and locations in 12-13-14 th century Florence. Students will observe the close proximity of the houses belonging to these rivaling factions, and understand the consequences of this on their conflict.
011 (1	Selected BREs according to calendar
Objectives	 By the end of this walk students will be able to: Learn about the history of the most influential families in medieval Florence Learn about the political scene and factions during Dante's time as a prior Become familiar with the houses and places of Black and White Guelphs Understand the impact of living in close proximity onto the Black and White conflict
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following places: - Adimari Houses (via delle Oche) - Torre dei Visdomini (via delle Oche) - Torre de' Donati (via del Corso) - Vicolo dello Scandalo (via del Corso) - Cerchi Houses (via de' Cerchi) - House of Giano della Bella (Piazza de' Cimatori) - Torri di Corso Donati (via Matteo Palmieri)
Language Component	Describing one's familyPossessive adjectives and family vocabulary
Readings/	Lewis, R.W.B. "Chapter SIX" from textbook <i>Dante: A Life</i>
Assignments	BREs as in the sign-up calendar assigned
for Lesson 13	Inferno presentations as assigned in the sign-up calendar Final Project Itineraries are DUE

Lesson 13	
Meet	ТВА
Lecture	Persona non grata: Dante's exile and legacy
	A walk that will take students to the sites mostly linked to Dante's exile, to understand

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k <i>Dante: A Life</i>

Lesson 14	TDA.
Meet	TBA
Lecture	Final On-Site Project
	Students will be assigned an area of Florence and asked to will lead the class through
	an original walk that they will have prepared and submitted on Lesson 13. Each
	walking tour must be of 25 minutes max. and be based on the knowledge acquired
	during the course. It must include a short introduction at the beginning and a short
	conclusion at the end.
Objectives	By the end of this walk students will be able to:
	Resume and summarize the different themes and topics related to Dante and
	discussed throughout the semester
	Plan, schedule, and lead an "original" walk based on the knowledge acquired
	during the course
	Demonstrate their personal understanding of the connection between Dante
	and Florence
Visit	This walk will take the students to the following areas:
	- Santa Maria Novella area
	- Duomo area
	- via del Corso / Bargello area
	- Palazzo Vecchio area
	- Santa Croce area
	Within the assigned area, the stops of each itinerary of this visit will be decided by the
	students, as part of their Final On-Site Project assignment. Students will have
	submitted their itineraries on Lesson 13 and the detailed map will have been shared
	by the instructor before Lesson 14.
Language	Giving directions in Italian while leading the Final Project walks
Component	2 Siving an obtain in Italian willo loading the Final Froject walks

Readings/	
Assignments	Preparation for Final exam
for Lesson 15	

Lesson 15	
Meet	
Lecture	FINAL EXAM