

Spring 2017 - Italian Graduate Courses

Subject to change. Please refer to InsideND for the most up-to-date, accurate information.

ROIT 63113-01- Dante's World of Books

TR 2:20-4:45p

Z. Baranski

"Dante's World of Books" aims to examine the oeuvre and career of, arguably, the most original and influential writer in Western culture from three closely interlinked perspectives. First, the course provides an overview of all Dante's writings, the books he actually produced. Second, it explores his intellectual formation and his attitude towards the literary tradition—the books that were probably present in his 'library'. Third, it will assess the manner in which Dante synthesized his different ideological and poetic interests in order to develop an incisive and powerful assessment and critique of humanity's position in the order of divine creation. In the Middle Ages, the created universe was often metaphorically described as "God's book" or the "book of creation". The course thus attempts to investigate the complex inter-relationship that Dante forged between his books and the 'book' of the Supreme Artist, a popular and highly influential medieval image for God the Creator.

Crosslists MI 60558 ENG 90269 THEO 63205

ROIT 63116-01- Dante II

TR 11:00am-12:15pm

C. Moev

Dante's Comedy is one of the supreme poetic achievements in Western literature. It is a probing synthesis of the entire Western cultural and philosophical tradition that produced it, a radical experiment in poetics and poetic technique, and a profound exploration of Christian spirituality. Dante I and Dante II are an in-depth study, over two semesters, of the entire Comedy, in its historical, philosophical and literary context. Dante I focuses on the Inferno and the works that precede the Comedy (Vita Nova, Convivio, De vulgari eloquentia); Dante II focuses on the Purgatorio and Paradiso, along with the Monarchia. Students may take just one of Dante I and II or both, in either order.

Lectures and discussion in English; the text will be read in a facing-page translation, so we can refer to the Italian (but knowledge of Italian is not necessary). Counts as an Italian Studies course. Students with Italian have the option of also enrolling in a one-credit pass/fail Languages Across the Curriculum section, which will meet one hour per week to read and discuss selected passages or cantos in Italian. NOTE: the one-semester lecture course ROIT 40114, Dante's Divine Comedy: The Christian Universe as Poetry, is often offered in place of Dante I. LIT - Univ. Req. Literature. Cross-listed with LLRO 40116, MI 40553, MI 60553 ROIT 40116

ROIT 63955-01- Manzoni

TR 2:00-3:15pm

C. Moevs

Alessandro Manzoni's Promessi Sposi is an enduring classic, one of the great novels of nineteenth century Europe. Its importance in forging the cultural, literary, and linguistic identity of the emerging Italian nation is rivaled only by Dante's Comedy. In this seminar we will read the Promessi Sposi in its historical and cultural context (the tension and fusion between enlightenment and romantic ideals at

the threshold of the Italian nation-state), paying special attention to the work's artistic, social, and religious aims as a novel at once historical, political, and self-consciously Catholic. We will also look at Manzoni's other works (the other redactions of the *Promessi Sposi*, the poems, plays, and essays) to try to form a complete picture of Manzoni's intellectual, cultural, religious itinerary in relation to his time. The readings will be in Italian, and the course will require student presentations and a research paper.