

## ITA100 – Dante and His World

2021 marks the 700<sup>th</sup> year from the death of Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). In this introduction to Dante and his world, we will start from a now seemingly unheard of assumption: the great poet Dante was a devout Catholic who read saint Thomas Aquinas. In the course, we will examine the whole literary production of Dante Alighieri. We will read excerpts from his first masterpiece, the *New Life*, where he talks about the Christian love for a woman and the mystery of marriage. Most of the course will be on Dante's *Comedia*, which we will be reading in the recent English translation by Anthony Esolen.

- Week 1. 2021/01/12. The beginnings of Italian poetry. The “new style” (“stil novo”). Dante's life. 16h00 Eastern Time (New York) = 22h00 Central European Time (Rome/Paris)
- Week 2. 2021/01/19. Dante and his love for Beatrice. *The New Life* (reading: *Tanto Gentile*)
- Week 3. 2021/01/26. The *Divine Comedy*. Inferno I. Dante gets lost. Sin and penance.
- Week 4. 2021/02/02. Inferno III. Those who are spitted out by Satan himself, including a coward pope who “renounced” the papacy
- Week 5. 2021/02/9. Inferno V. Luxury. Paolo & Francesca
- Week 6. 2021/02/16. Inferno X. Heretics. The Epicurean Farinata degli Uberti
- Week 7. 2021/02/23. Inferno XVI. Pride and curiosity. Odiseus
- Week 8. 2021/03/02. Inferno XXXIV. Judas and Lucifer
- Week 9. 2021/03/9. Purgatory I. Cato (freedom). Casella (Amor che nella mente mi ragiona)
- Week 10. 2021/03/16. Purgatory XXVIII. Eden, Matelda
- Week 11. 2021/03/23. Purgatory XXXIII. Beatrice shows up and takes Dante to heaven.
- Week 12. 2021/03/30. Paradise XI. Saint Thomas Aquinas recounts the life of St. Francis of Assisi
- Week 13. 2021/04/06. Paradise XXXII. The glory of Our Lady.
- Week 14. 2021/04/13. Paradise XXXIII. St. Bernard's Prayer to Our Lady. Dante's Vision of the Mysteries of the Most Holy Trinity and of Incarnation

Relevant texts will be provided in advance in English translation. Each session there will be a presentation of about 1 hour and 30 minutes followed by questions from the listeners. There will be no exam at the end, but students who so desire will receive a certificate of attendance. Students are required to enroll by sending a donation through the Paypal button and by sending an email to [luca.gili@protonmail.com](mailto:luca.gili@protonmail.com) to have access to the ZOOM platform for the course.

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