

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

ITALIAN PROGRAMME
ITAL 407 SPECIAL TOPIC: DANTE'S *INFERNO*

TRIMESTER 2 2009
13 July to 15 November 2009

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Study week: 19 to 23 October

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 14 November

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Names and contact details

Contact details of Italian Programme staff involved in this course are as follows:

VZ601	Dr Claudia Bernardi claudia.bernardi@vuw.ac.nz	Lecturer Course coordinator	ph. 463 5646
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VZ610	Nina Cuccurullo nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz	Administrator	ph. 463 5293
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Contact details of other staff in the Italian Programme are as follows:

VZ602	Dr Sarah (Sally) Hill sarah.hill@vuw.ac.nz	Senior Lecturer	ph. 463 5298
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VZ504	Dr Marco Sonzogni marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz	Programme Director Senior Lecturer	ph. 463 6284
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VZ607	Palmiro Sportoletti palmiro.sportoletti@vuw.ac.nz	Italian Government Lector	ph. 463 5974
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VZ607	Sibilla Paparatti sibilla.paparatti@vuw.ac.nz	Tutor	ph. 463 5974
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SLC Coordinator for Students with Disabilities

VZ 613	Dr Richard Millington richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5976
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SLC Coordinator for Maori and Pacific Students
VZ 613 Dr Richard Millington
richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz

ph. 463 5976

The Course Coordinator and Lecturer for ITAL 407 is Dr Claudia Bernardi. The tutorials are also taught by Claudia Bernardi. Staff are available for student consultation at times indicated on the doors of their offices.

Class times and locations

Lecture/Seminar

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4.10pm - 5.00 pm in VZ (von Zedlitz) 509

For a detailed schedule of lectures and seminars see the Course Programme.

Please also note that cellphones and pagers should be switched off for the duration of all classes.

Course delivery

This course is delivered through two lectures per week and seminars scheduled in the course programme.

Communication of additional information

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside the rooms (VZ503 and VZ504). Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via class, noticeboards, Blackboard, or email.

Course content

This course presents the first part of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, one of the most influential works of world literature, setting it in its late medieval context and discovering its powerful connections with Italian poetry, language, art and life today. ITAL 407 is a one trimester 30-point course for Honours students of Italian.

The aims of the course are as follows:

- (i) to introduce students to one of the most famous authors of Italian European literature, Dante Alighieri;
- (ii) to encourage students' reading of the Dante's *Divina Commedia* in relation to the author's life and works and within the historical, social and political context of his time;
- (iii) to provide students with a firm grasp of structure and themes of the *Inferno*;
- (iv) to guide students through a detailed analysis of selected cantos;
- (v) to offer students some historical perspective on the development of the Italian language;
- (vi) to encourage students' development of critical and analytical skills in relation to literary texts.

Learning objectives

The objectives of the course are as follows. Upon completing the course successfully you will be able to:

- (i) show a general knowledge of Dante's life, works and times;
- (ii) demonstrate a knowledge of Dante's *Inferno*;
- (iii) translate into English passages selected from the set cantos;
- (iv) paraphrase from medieval Italian into modern Italian passages from the set cantos; demonstrate a contextual knowledge of the biblical, classical, mythological and historical figures and events referred to in the set cantos;
- (v) appreciate and comment on the ideas, themes and style of the set cantos and of *Inferno* in general;
- (vi) develop a critical discussion of literary issues, both in spoken and written form.

Expected workload

The Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Committee on Workloads and Assessment has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

Students enrolling in a 400-level, one trimester, 30-point course should work on average 24 hours per week, including the 3 contact hours – i.e., in the case of ITAL 407, *21 hours of private study outside class time*.

Readings

Essential texts: Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri. Vol. 1. Inferno*, edited and translated by Robert M. Durling, with introduction and notes by Ronald L. Martinez and Robert M. Durling (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Assessment requirements

Assessment for ITAL 407 is a combination of in-term assessment (60%) and a final 3-hour examination (40%), as follows:

- (i) 2 (2500-word) essays, of which at least one must be written in Italian (20% each);
- (ii) 1 seminar presentation (20%);
- (iii) 1 final three-hour written examination (40%).

The relevant dates for assessed work are detailed in the Course Programme.

Penalties

The due dates for the essays given in the Course Programme must be adhered to. Although work may be accepted late in special circumstances, the Course Co-ordinator should always be contacted on or before the due dates if there is a problem.

The penalty for work presented late without prior approval is a 5% deduction per day. In addition, please note that up to a maximum of 5% may be deducted for poorly presented essays.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to pass ITAL 407, students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

- (i) submit the two essays by due dates;
- (ii) submit the seminar presentation on a date agreed with the lecturer;
- (iii) sit the final written examination.

Presentation of assignments

Tidy presentation of assignments is essential. Work may be typed or neatly handwritten. Crossings-out indicate that a piece of work is still at draft stage. Allow space for correction: leave a 4-centimetre margin and write on alternate lines. Do not write in pencil.

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from the SLC Reception on the sixth floor of Von Zedlitz (VZ 610). Assignments are to be handed into the Italian assignment slot located to the left of the SLC Reception area (VZ 610).

Corrected work will be handed out in class. If you do not collect your work in class, you will be able to collect it from the SLC Reception (VZ 610). All work not collected will be destroyed three months after the date of the final written test.

Student representatives and student evaluations

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative for each lecture group. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. In addition students can approach any member of staff individually to talk about the course as a whole, any particular aspect of it, or their own individual progress.

At the end of the course students may be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre. These questionnaires relate either to the course, or to an individual lecturer's contribution. They are an important part of the University's accountability process, and the results are helpful in the University's attempts to maintain and raise the standards of the education it offers.

Student club, student facilities

All students of Italian are encouraged to join the students' Italian Club and to participate in the cultural and social events organised. The Italian seminar room for tutorials and small classes is usually Von Zedlitz (VZ) 509, unless otherwise stated. Room Von Zedlitz (VZ) 603 is a library where Italian books, newspapers and magazines are available for borrowing and consultation.

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (Level 0, von Zedlitz Building) facilitates independent learning and supports the teaching of languages. The LLC is a friendly and supportive environment where you can immerse yourself in language and culture through access to a variety of multimedia language resources: everything from print, audio, DVDs, comprehensive computer software and access to live satellite TV in several languages.

Enjoy the freedom to choose and direct your own learning: you select the materials and activities that you find interesting, which help you meet your needs and suit your learning style. Make time to study at the LLC regularly and you will reap the rewards of higher academic success.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General university policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

Course programme

Week	Day	Lectures and Seminars	
1	13 July	Lecture 1:	Introduzione al corso
	14 July	Lecture 2:	Dante: vita e opere
2	20 July	Lecture 1:	Canto 1
	21 July	Lecture 2:	Canto 1 (continua)
	22 July	Library seminar: Library Seminar Room -Level 3	
3	27 July	Lecture 1:	Canto 2
	28 July	Lecture 2:	Canto 2 (continua)
	29 July	Seminar 1	
4	3 August	Lecture 1:	Canto 3
	4 August	Lecture 2:	Canto 4
	5 August	Seminar 2	
5	10 August	Lecture 1:	Canto 5
	11 August	Lecture 2:	Canto 5 (continua)
	12 August	Seminar 3	
6	17 August	Lecture 1:	Canto 10
	18 August	Lecture 2:	Canto 10 (continua)
	19 August	Seminar 4	

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (24 AUGUST 2009 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2009)

7	7 September	Lecture 1:	Canto 13
	8 September	Lecture 2:	Canto 13 (continua)
Essay 1 due on Friday 11 September, 5 pm			
8	14 September	Lecture 1:	Canto 15
	15 September	Lecture 2:	Canto 15 (continua)
	16 September	Seminar 5	
9	21 September	Lecture 1:	Canto 17
	22 September	Lecture 2:	Canto 17 (continua)
	23 September	Seminar 6	
10	28 September	Lecture 1:	Canto 19
	29 September	Lecture 2:	Canto 19 (continua)
11	5 October	Lecture 1:	Canto 21
	6 October	Lecture 2:	Canto 21 (continua)
	7 October	Revision and exam preparation	
12	12 October	Lecture 1:	Canto 26
	13 October	Lecture 2:	Canto 26 (continua)

Essay 2 due on Friday 16 October, 5 pm

FINAL WRITTEN EXAMINATION (40%) to be held during the
Examination period: 27 October to 14 November.

Date and time to be advised.