Humanities Seminars Program: Dante's *Paradiso*

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Text:

Tentative Schedule of Material:

1. Weds., October 26, 2016: Seminar 1: Overview and Review  
   a. Introduction to the course, and to Dante: Dante’s life and times, and bibliography  
   b. Overview of the *Inferno* and *Purgatorio*: review  
   c. Introduction to Heaven and to *Paradiso*  
      i. Brief overview of astronomy (as background): modern vs. medieval  
      ii. The impossibility of discussing Divine matters.  
      iii. Who (what?) is Beatrice?

2. Weds., November 2, 2016: Seminar 2: First 11 cantos of *Paradiso*: In the shadow of the Earth: Moon, Mercury, Venus; Heaven proper (the circle of the Sun)  
   a. Cantos 1-4: Introduction to *Paradiso* and the circles of the Moon and Mercury  
   b. Cantos 5-8: The circles of Mercury and of Venus  
   c. Cantos 9-11: The circle of the Sun: Heave beyo
   nd the shadow of the Earth

   a. Cantos 12-15: The circles of the Sun and Mars; introduction to Cacciaguida  
   b. Cantos 16-19: The circle of Mars and Cacciaguida; the circle of Jupiter  
   c. Cantos 20-22: The circles of Jupiter and Saturn

4. Weds., November 16, 2016: Seminar 4: Cantos 23-33 (end) of *Paradiso*: The circles of Saturn, the fixed stars, and the Prime Mover; the Empyrean, or Heaven beyond the created cosmos; the Rose of Heaven; God  
   a. Cantos 23-26: The circles of Saturn and the fixed stars  
   b. Cantos 27-30: The Prime Mover, and the Army of Christ  
   c. Cantos 31-33: The Empyrean, the Rose of Heaven, and the ultimate sight of God  
      i. The end of Dante’s *Divine Comedy*