

Humanities Seminars Program: Dante's *Inferno*

November-December 2014

Fabian Alfie
Professor of Italian
alfie@email.arizona.edu

Text:

- Alighieri, Dante. *The Inferno*, translators Jean and Robert Hollander. New York: Random House, 2002. ISBN: 978-0385496988

Tentative Schedule of Material:

- 1. Thursday, November 13, 2014: Overview of Dante's Life and Times**
 - a. Introduction to the course, and to Dante: Dante's life and times, and bibliography
 - i. What is evil?
 - b. Introduction to *Inferno* and to the *Divine Comedy*
 - i. What is human nature?
 - c. Canto 1 (time permitting)
- 2. Thursday, November 20, 2014: Cantos 1-12 of *Inferno*: The Woods, Gateway to Hell, Limbo, Upper Hell (*incontinentia*), Heresy, start of Violence (against neighbor)**
 - a. **Cantos 1-4:** Introduction to *Inferno*, Gateway to Hell, Limbo
 - b. **Cantos 5-8:** Sins of *Incontinentia* (lack of self-control)
 - c. **Cantos 9-12:** City of Dis and Heresy, Violence against neighbors
- 3. Thursday, November 27, 2014: No seminar (Thanksgiving)**
- 4. Thursday, December 4, 2014: cantos 12-24 of *Inferno*: violence (against neighbor, against self, against God), fraud**
 - a. **Cantos 13-16:** Violence against self, violence against God (i.e., blasphemy, usury, sodomy)
 - b. **Cantos 17-20:** Fraud: pimping / seducing, flattery, Simony, soothsaying
 - c. **Cantos 21-24:** Fraud: political corruption, hypocrisy, thievery
- 5. Thursday, December 11, 2014: cantos 24-34 (end) of *Inferno*: Fraud and "compound fraud" (i.e., treason)**
 - a. **Cantos 25-28:** Fraud: "other filth," schism /scandal, falsifiers
 - b. **Cantos 29-31:** Compound fraud: treason
 - c. **Cantos 32-34:** Compound fraud: treason