

Medieval Studies

Humanities 305

Section: D100

Term: 2000 Fall

Instructor: Lawrin Armstrong,

AQ 6233, 291-4431

Email:lawrin@sfu.ca

Discussion Topics: Between the death of the emperor Frederick II in 1250 and the first visitation of the Black Death in 1348 the communes of north and central Italy experienced a flowering of urban culture and civic consciousness. The objective of this course is to explore the nature of medieval Italian urban culture through the eyes of the Florentine poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). Cast in the form of a religious epic, Dante's Divine Comedy expresses in allegorical terms a critique of contemporary Italian politics and expresses the poet's world and a vision of properly constituted society. Through a close reading of the Divine Comedy and study of various critical approaches to the poem, we shall achieve insight into the complexities of late medieval Italy.

Grading: Essay 1 20%

Essay 2 40%

Seminar presentation 20%

Participation 20%

Required Texts: Dante Alighieri. *The Divine Comedy*, Trans., Allen Mandelbaum. New York and Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995. Mandatory translation.

Daniel Waley. *The Italian City-Republics*. 3rd edition. London and New York: Longman,

Recommended Texts: N/A

Materials/Supplies: N/A

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 45 credit hours

Notes: HUM 305-4 may be applied to the Certificate in Liberal Arts.

Visit our Humanities website

For inquiries contact wendy_sjolin@sfu.ca

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.