

**English 392:
Dante's *Divine Comedy*
Spring 2023**

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Course Description:

Not one to be discouraged by hardship, Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) turned his banishment from the city of Florence into an opportunity to put his creative energy to work. *The Divine Comedy*, typically and fascinatingly medieval, also preserves Dante's unique vision of Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise, as well as his idiosyncratic choice of the souls who end up in each and the reasons why. This course will present the *Comedy* in English translation and occasionally linger over some really good bits in the original Italian, but no prior study of the Italian language is required. We'll study the work in its fourteenth-century Italian context but also engage newer theoretical and political approaches. ENGL 392 is cross-listed with ITAL 470 and MEDI 440.



Domenico di Michelino, portrait of Dante holding the *Divine Comedy*. Florence, Duomo, 1465 (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

Proposed Assignments:

- Quizzes (20%)
- Midterm exam (15%)
- Short research paper (25%)
- Annotated bibliography for the paper (10%)
- Final exam (20%)
- Class participation (10%)

Proposed Text:

- Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*, trans. Charles S. Sisson, with intro. and notes by David H. Higgins (Oxford University Press, 1998).