English / Italian Literature 206: Dante and the Romantics
Professors Robert Harrison & Denise Gigante
Winter, 2019–2020
Room 160–315; Wednesdays 10:30 - 1:20 pm

Required Texts
2. William Blake, *William Blake’s Divine Comedy Illustrations* (Dover: 978-0486464299)
*If you have another edition of Keats with the required readings, you may use it.

Schedule of Readings

**Week 1**
Dante, *The Inferno*, Canto 1; Blake Design no. 1
(1/8)

**Week 2**
Dante, *Inferno*, 2–5; Blake, Designs, 2–10;
Keats, “A Dream: After Reading Dante’s Episode of Paulo & Francesca”
(1/15)

**Week 3**
Dante, *Inferno*, 6–12; Blake, Designs, 11–24;
Shelley’s translation of Dante’s Sonnet to Guido Cavalcanti (Canvas)
(1/22)
**Week 4**
(1/29)

**Week 5**
(2/5)
Dante, *Inferno*, 20–26; Blake, Designs, 37–58
Assignment (i) due: 2-3 pp. commentary on one of Blake’s designs of Dante

**Week 6**
(2/12)
Dante, *Inferno*, 27
T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”; “Dante”; “Blake” (Canvas)

**Week 7**
(2/19)
Dante, *Inferno*, 28-34; Blake, Designs, 59–71

**Week 8**
(2/26)
Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind”; *The Triumph of Life; A Defence of Poetry*

**Week 9**
(3/3)
Keats, *The Fall of Hyperion*; letter of May 3, 1818, on Vale of Soul-Making (Canvas)
Assignment (i) due: 2-3 pp. commentary on Keats’s or Shelley’s response to Dante

**Week 10**
(3/10)

**Finals week:** Assignment (v) due: 10-12 pp. paper on Dante’s reception by Shelley, Keats, or Rossetti (3/17)

**Requirements**

**Class Participation:** 30%
Please do notify us in advance if you must be absent from class due to illness, as active participation in seminar discussion all weeks is mandatory.

**Two short position papers:** 20%
We understand that some weeks you will have heavier overall course workloads than others. Please examine your schedules in advance, and if you need to shift the deadline for any of the short papers, please *let us know in advance*.

**One final paper:** 50%
The final paper should incorporate some secondary reading to aid your analysis. Please consult the bibliographies in your texts and on The William Blake Archive (www.blakearchive.org) as well as Searchworks (including the MLA Catalogue, JSTOR, etc.).