

Dante and His World

2021 marks the 700th year from the death of Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). In this introduction to Dante and his world, we will start from a now seemingly unheard of assumption: the great poet Dante was a devout Catholic who read saint Thomas Aquinas. In the course, we will examine the whole literary production of Dante Alighieri. We will read excerpts from his first masterpiece, the *New Life*, where he talks about the Christian love for a woman and the mystery of marriage. Most of the course will be on Dante's *Comedia*, which we will be reading in the recent English translation by Anthony Esolen.

Week 1. 2021/01/14. The beginnings of Italian poetry. The "new style" ("stil novo"). Dante's life. 21h00 Eastern Time (New York/Montreal) = 20h00 Central Time (Chicago)

Week 2. 2021/01/21. Dante and his love for Beatrice. *The New Life* (reading: *Tanto Gentile*)

Week 3. 2021/01/28. The *Divine Comedy*. Inferno I. Dante gets lost. Sin and penance.

Week 4. 2021/02/04. Inferno III. Those who are spitted out by Satan himself, including a coward pope who "renounced" the papacy

Week 5. 2021/02/11. Inferno V. Luxury. Paolo & Francesca

Week 6. 2021/02/18. Inferno X. Heretics. The Epicurean Farinata degli Uberti

Week 7. 2021/02/25. Inferno XVI. Pride and curiosity. Odiseus

Week 8. 2021/03/04. Inferno XXXIV. Judas and Lucifer

Week 9. 2021/03/11. Purgatory I. Cato (freedom). Casella (Amor che nella mente mi ragiona)

Week 10. 2021/03/18. Purgatory XXVIII. Eden, Matelda

Week 11. 2021/03/25. Purgatory XXXIII. Beatrice shows up and takes Dante to heaven.

Week 12. 2021/04/01. Paradise XI. Saint Thomas Aquinas recounts the life of St. Francis of Assisi

Week 13. 2021/04/08. Paradise XXXII. The glory of Our Lady.

Week 14. 2021/04/15. Paradise XXXIII. St. Bernard's Prayer to Our Lady. Dante's Vision of the Mysteries of the Most Holy Trinity and of Incarnation

Relevant texts will be provided in advance in English translation. Each session there will be a presentation of about 1 hour and 30 minutes followed by questions from the listeners. There will be no exam at the end, but students who so desire will receive a certificate of attendance.

Students are required to enroll by sending a donation through the "Donate" button or by sending an email to luca.gili@protonmail.com to arrange for a bank transfer (preferred option). Students will have access to the access codes for the ZOOM meeting room of the course.

When ?

On Thursdays from January 14 through April 15, 2021 at 21h00 Eastern Time

21h00 Eastern Time (New York/Montreal)

20h00 Central Time (Houston/Chicago)

19h00 Mountain Time (Denver)

18h00 Pacific Time (Los Angeles/Vancouver)

02h00 (Greenwich time: London/Lisbon)

03h00 (Western European Time: Rome/Paris/Berlin/Warsaw)

04h00 (Eastern European Time: Helsinki/Vilnius/Athens)

Where?

On the ZOOM platform. Meeting ID and password will be communicated to enrolled students. Classes will be recorded and made available to enrollees on the “for students only” page of the website “Aquinas for all”.

Luca Gili (PhD, KU Leuven) is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Quebec in Montreal (*Université du Québec à Montréal*). He has been working on the history of ancient logic, on Dante and on Thomas Aquinas. His publications include *La sillogistica di Alessandro di Afrodisia* (Hildesheim 2011), *Aristotle’s Comparative Logic* (Classical Quarterly, 2015), *Thomistic Logic in Renaissance Italy (Mediterranea, 2019)* and a chapter on Dante for the volume *The Ten Commandments in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Leiden 2017).