Course Title: Dante’s “Inferno”
Course Code: LIT 09
Instructor: Beverly Allen

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions and complete a piece of written work (to be discussed further in class).

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Before the course begins: Read the first three Cantos of *Inferno*. Optional: Read the introduction.

**Week One:** Placing hell in history. An introduction to Dante’s world view, including the role of Beatrice and poetry. Sin and the structure of Hell. Sin and sex and love. Cantos I-III.

**Weeks Two and Three:** Crossing the Acheron to Limbo (1st Circle) and the Incontinent Sins (Circles 2-5). The Unbaptized; Paolo and Francesca; Filippo Argenti. Cantos IV-VIII

**Week Four:** Crossing the Styx to the City of Dis (6th Circle); Heretics; Farinata and Cavalcanti, Cantos IX-XI

**Weeks Five and Six:** Crossing the Phlegethon to the Plain of Fire (7th Circle, three Rings), Sins of Violence; Pier della Vigna, Brunetto Latini
Weeks Six and Seven: Geryon carries Dante and Virgil to the Malebolge [“evil pouches”] (8th circle; pouches 1-10); Sins of Fraud; Pope Nicholas III; Manto; Ulysses, Bertran de Born, Gianni Schicchi

Week Eight: Antaeus lowers them to the Pit (9th Circle); Sins of Betrayal; Ugolino, Brutus, Judas; Satan. They escape!