The purpose of this course is the investigation of Dante’s opus in relation to other poets, philosophers, and theologians that had deep influences on his writing. Although only two of his major works will be read in their entirety, the *Divine Comedy* and the *Vita nova*, constant references will be made to other writings. Besides a stylistic and formal analysis, numerous thematic strains will be researched and followed throughout Dante’s production. Particular attention will be paid to such concepts as allegory, poetic auto-interpretation, autobiography, and the ever-changing concept of love.

**Learning goals:** Students will be trained to do a close analysis of literary texts, to put poetic and prose texts in conversation with philosophical ideas, to discern the boundaries of literature, philosophy, and theology. They will be assessed by means of oral presentations (one long, one short), one short paper, one long (publishable) paper, and class participation.

**Syllabus**

Texts: *Vita Nova* (any annotated edition); *Divina Commedia* (any annotated edition); secondary materials will be made available on sakai.

- **09/09** Introduction. Exile, Poetry, Prayer.


12/09 Conclusion. Final paper due.

This is a seminar and participation is very important; it will constitute a percentage of your final grade. Everyone is expected to do the assigned reading for the date specified on the syllabus. Readings will be posted on a sakai page dedicated to this course. Some response papers to the readings will be assigned from time to time. Participation, oral presentations, and a final paper will all contribute to your final grade. Academic integrity is expected of everyone. Please, quote your sources, do not plagiarize, do not copy, and do not submit your paper for more than one class. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive an F in this class and you will be reported to the Dean of the Graduate School for further action. Final grades will be based on class participation, two oral presentations, a draft of the final paper, and final paper.