



Dante Seminar **16:560:605:01**

Taught by Professor, Alessandro Vettori, Department of Italian
Meets synchronously on Thursday evenings 500pm-740pm

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Why do we still read Dante? Is a poet like him still relevant for us 21st-century scholars? Is Dante still relevant for our students? Does a poem like the *Comedy*, all structured on punishment and reward in the afterlife, still make any sense for us? Is a system of thought heavily constructed on Christian doctrine still appealing to us living in a post-Christian world or even in a post-religious society? These are some of the questions and issues we will be dealing with in this course. A switch in perspective will reveal a fresh interpretation of the *poeta sacro* as a political activist who fights corruption, a rebellious author who chooses the vernacular (the language of the poor and the ignorant) over Latin, (the language of the intellectuals ages), a social dissident who condemns capitalism and the greedy culture of money and proposes poverty as a solution to social tensions.

Questions? vettori@italian.rutgers.edu