

YSM 9317 : Dante as Theologian

Besides its status as the greatest poetic work of Western culture, Dante's *Divine Comedy* is a storehouse of theological insights. The *Divine Comedy* is an imaginative tour of the afterlife in which Dante as a pilgrim observes the nature of evil (Inferno), the regeneration of fallen humanity (Purgatory) and the joy of the beatific vision and how to prepare for it (Paradise). The course tracks a number of key themes in the *Comedy*: the nature of sin, the promise of human natality, friendship, the relation of aesthetics to the moral life, and Dante's insight into a *theologia ludens* (a theology of God's playfulness), which embraces an ethic of risk and the joyful essence of the divinity.

Credits 3

Course ID

005533

Semester Offered

Offered as needed