

Dante: The *Paradiso*

The text we will use in this course is the following: Dante, the *Paradiso*, a verse translation by Robert Hollander & Jean Hollander, Anchor Books, 2008, (ISBN-10: 140003115X ISBN-13: 978-1400031153.) This is a bilingual text with the original Italian and clear, elegant English on facing pages. Used copies of the book are often available from Amazon and from the excellent second-hand market at www.abebooks.com (The American Book Exchange).

There will be no additional required reading, though the instructor will suggest optional reading from time to time, especially works easily available in on-line texts. (There are **no other** fees for the course beyond those charged by the Evergreen Forum.)

The specific syllabus of the course is simplicity itself. The *Paradiso* has thirty-three sections called cantos. Each canto generally has about 150 lines of dense poetry. The assignment for the first meeting (March 6), which will largely be devoted to background and preparation, will be cantos 1-3. The following five meetings will aim to cover five or six cantos each to the end of the poem:

March 6: background, preparation, Cantos 1-3

March 13: cantos 4-9

March 20: cantos 10-15

March 27: cantos 16-21

April 3: no meeting for Passover

April 10: cantos 22-27

April 18: cantos 28-33.

Leader: John V. Fleming, a retired professor of medieval literature, taught at Princeton University for forty years.

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 6 weeks: March 6 through April 17 (no class on 4/3)

Location: Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville