

ESSAY 3: *The Divine Comedy* and “The Aleph”

LENGTH: 5 pages (1500-1600 words) typed, double spaced, 12 pt. font

DUE DATE: 11 June 2020

In the final essay for this course, “World Poetry: The Power and Limits of Sight and Expression, Re-reading *The Divine Comedy* with Jorge Luis Borges”, compare and/or contrast a meaningful aspect of Dante Alighieri’s 14th-century *Divine Comedy* and Jorge Luis Borges’ 1945 “The Aleph”, the latter of which is notably patterned on the prior, though its author denies any conscious awareness of the works’ similarities. The ultimate stakes of your essay should take into account, as a foundational consideration, what is significant about the relationship between the two literary works.

This is not a research paper, though you are not prohibited from doing your own research as you see fit. You are encouraged to include, as secondary sources, any of the in-class readings that may be of use to your analysis. You are also encouraged to schedule office hours or email any questions or concerns you have about your thesis by at least four days before the essay deadline (June 7th). Please note that I will not read drafts.

Please underline your thesis statement and each topic sentences.

Turn your essays in via Word Doc in an email attachment to my two email addresses (vanwagen@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn / vanwagen@umich.edu) by midnight, Beijing time, Thursday, June 11th. Any late essays will be marked down accordingly.