ESSAY 2: *"Purgatorio"*, Dante Alighieri
LENGTH: 750-900 words: typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman
DUE DATE: 6 May 2019

In Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy* and *Vita Nova,* he is overwhelmingly concerned with the concept of 'love'. In the tradition that had come down to the *stilnovisti* from the Provençal troubadours and the Sicilian School of poetry, 'love' was framed within the chivalric and courtly tradition. Dante took inspiration from these movements, as well as from his mentors and friends, Guido Guinizelli, the founder of the *Dolce Stil Novo* movement, and Guido Cavalcanti, the movement's poetic exemplar. Dante both relies on and overcomes his predecessors in his *Vita Nova* and to an even greater extent in the *Divine Comedy*.

In this essay, firstly, discuss how Dante-author's theory of love, specifically as it is expounded on in *Purgatorio,* is rooted in the norms of the courtly or *stilnovisti* tradition and how, conversely, it surpasses and innovates to provide a groundbreaking response to the question that Robert Pogue Harrison argues is central to the *stilnovisti:* 'What is love? Finally, in your conclusion, propose Dante's innovative conception of 'love' as related to and perhaps even heralding the arrival of Renaissance Humanism and its new modes of knowledge production.

For this paper you must use *Purgatorio* as a source text. You may also use *Inferno,* "Approaching the *Vita Nova*" (Harrison), "Dante and the Lyric Past" (Barolini), *Vita Nova* (Alighieri); you may use encyclopedic entries to gain broad background knowledge.

Please cite all primary and secondary sources in the body of your text. Do not take direct quotations from the encyclopedia, rather, use your own words to paraphrase the information. If any encyclopedic information comes from another source, include that information in your own parenthetical citation.

Fill out the lines below and turn in this handout with your essay <u>or</u> underline the following sentence in the body of your paper.

THESIS:

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