

"Dante and Shakespeare divide the world between them. There is no third." –T.S. Eliot

Dante and His World

January 7 – April 17, 2025

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00–12:15

Thales College

Instructor: Distinguished Professor of Humanities,
Dr. Anthony Esolen

Course Description:

This seminar course will focus on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, but also explore the cultural, religious, and historical context in which Dante lived and wrote, offering students a deeper understanding both of his masterpiece and of the Medieval world from which the modern West developed.

Students will have the rare opportunity to study one of world literature's greatest poems in a celebrated modern English translation under the guiding hand of the translator himself: renowned literary scholar, cultural critic, author, and translator, Anthony Esolen.

Who: Anyone 16 and up

Two Options:

1. Take the course for Thales College credit* (in-person instruction) *May not be transferable to other colleges
2. Audit the course (in-person instruction)

Format:

All classes are in person in the classroom with our undergraduate students; Prof Esolen is online and will interact via video link, using a large flatscreen TV, 360 degree camera, and microphone.

Price: \$200 in total, \$100 due upfront

Requirements:

Students taking the course for credit will do the same assignments as the undergraduates taking the course, and will receive a grade.

Auditing students will not receive a grade, and will not be expected to do graded assignments such as papers or exams. However, they will be expected to:

- Commit to coming for the great majority of the sessions**
- Acquire all the required readings for the course;
- Complete the reading for each class ahead of time;
- Participate in class discussion.

***(a few absences due to conflicts is acceptable)*

To Apply:

Submit an answer of ~200-400 words to the following question: What is one thing you would love to learn about the *Divine Comedy* or the High Middle Ages from Dr. Esolen, and/or what is one way you think you could contribute to the discussion in this class?

Email to: admissions@thalescollege.org AND peter.forrest@thalescollege.org