1. Both the *Aeneid* and the *Inferno* are concerned with love. Compare Virgil’s (the author) judgment on Dido with Virgil’s (the guide) assessment of Paolo and Francesca in Canto V of the *Inferno*. How and why does his reaction differ from Dante’s response to the two lovers?

2. In the Gospel of *John* what kind of relationship to Him does Jesus demand of the Christian? What effect does this have on the Christian’s life? What is Dante’s relation to Beatrice, and how does that affect his life?

3. Why is erotic love always disastrous in the world of Virgil? What is the role of erotic love in the *Divine Comedy*? How does this shift in the role of erotic love reflect a different understanding of the world in Virgil and Dante?

4. The souls in the *Aeneid* don’t want to leave the underworld. In Dante, those inside the city of Dis don’t want to leave either. What does each group see as the downside to life in the world that makes them prefer to stay in Hell? Why does Virgil find them sympathetic, and why does Dante condemn them?

5. In the Gospel of *John*, Jesus says: “He who has seen me has seen the Father.” However, Jesus is largely absent from the *Divine Comedy*. How much of Jesus’ role does Beatrice take over? What is left out? And what does this tell us about the effect of thinking the Christian experience in Greek categories?

**Length:** 7-8 double spaced pages. Please use Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and number your pages.

**Due: Friday, April 22nd, at 5:00 pm in Howison Library [305 Moses Hall]**

Late papers will be penalized one increment of grade (e.g., A to A-) per day. For example, an A paper that is submitted on Saturday (for grading purposes, any paper handed in between 5 pm Friday and Saturday night will be considered a Saturday submission) will receive a grade of A-minus, on Sunday a B-plus, Monday a B, etc. Because Howison Library will be closed over the weekend, late essays can be emailed to the GSIs, however, this electronic submission will need to be supplemented with a hard copy for grading purposes. This hard copy can be submitted to the library staff or directly to your GSI.

**Suggestions:** You are encouraged to propose a paper topic of your own. Before working on your topic, however, be sure to discuss it with your T.A.

Note that the topics above offer you a subject area, not a thesis. Develop a narrow, well-focused thesis from one of these areas and argue for it, keeping close to the text. Make sure to answer all parts of the question. Do not simply repeat what was said in lectures and sections. Back up your arguments with short, relevant quotations from the text. Be sure to define what you mean by terms such as “god”, “world”, “freedom” and “love” in your discussion, and relate your use of these terms to the text.

Please type the topic number at the top of the first page of your paper, and print your GSI’s name and section time on the top right hand corner.

KEEP A COPY OF YOUR PAPER.