

**The Ohio State University  
General Education Curriculum (GEC)  
Request for Course Approval Summary Sheet**

**1. Academic Unit(s) Submitting Request**

French and Italian

**2. Book 3/Registrar's Listing and Number (e.g., Arabic 367, English 110, Natural Resources 222)**

Italian 251

**3. GEC areas(s) for which course is to be considered (e.g., Category 4. Social Science, Section A. Individuals and Groups; and Category 6. Diversity Experiences, Section B. International Issues, Non-Western or Global Course)**

Category 5. Arts and Humanities, Section B. Literature

**4. Attach a statement as to how this course meets the general principles of the GEC Model Curriculum and the specific goals of the category(ies) for which it is being proposed.**

**5. Proposed Effective Date** Winter 2006

**6. If your unit has faculty members on any of the regional campuses, have they been consulted?**

N/A

**7. Select the appropriate descriptor for this GEC request.**

**Existing course with no changes to the *Course Offerings Bulletin* information.** Required documentation is this GEC summary sheet and the course syllabus. After approval by the academic unit and the college office, the documentation should be forwarded to the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Office (ASC) for consideration by the appropriate GEC Panel and the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

**Existing course with changes to the *Course Offerings Bulletin* information.** Required documentation is this GEC summary sheet, the course change request, and the course syllabus. Note that the academic unit and its college curriculum committee must approve the course change request before it is submitted to ASC.

**New course.** Required documentation is this summary sheet, the new course request, and the course syllabus. Note that the academic unit and its college curriculum committee must approve the new course request before it is submitted to ASC.

**8. Approval Signatures**

Diane W. Burdick  
Academic Unit

4/27/05  
Date

Steven Fink  
College Office Chair

6/3/05  
Date

Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Date

Office of Academic Affairs

Date

GEC Request for Course Approval  
Italian 251

4. Dante's *Divine Comedy* is a work that has had a tremendous impact on western culture from the fourteenth century to today. A close study of the poem permits students a great variety of experience. First, they gain an aesthetic appreciation of the poem itself and learn to recognize and analyze poetic forms. Second, they are provided the opportunity to experience a cultural moment that is, initially very foreign to them. The poem's intense engagement with its historical context reveals the complexity of the political and religious battles of the time. Third, students are ushered into philosophical debates that are ongoing today. Fourth, the multiple layers of meaning in the text (the surface beauty of the poetry, the actions described, the moral judgments that lie beneath and the latent allegorical meaning) offer a rare opportunity for students to learn the skills of critical reading and textual analysis. The *Divine Comedy* teaches us how to read while being mindful of historical context and how to understand a world that is entirely different from our own. It changes our perceptions of what poetry does and more generally, what literature can teach us.