Dante and the Middle Ages Project

In class we have been learning about medieval history and culture as well as Dante’s social commentary in *The Inferno*. Your job is to become scholars of a facet of medieval society and then analyze Dante’s commentary about your area of expertise in an assigned canto.

You need to work to become experts of both medieval society and Dante. We will then come together as a class to have a “Medieval Market Place of Ideas” to celebrate and deeply understand the roots of Dante’s social commentary in *The Inferno*.

As a group you will produce the following:

—A visual representing your researched element of medieval society and explanation of how it relates to your assigned Canto.

—A typed page of notes explaining your research and how it relates to your assigned canto to distribute to your classmates.

—A comparative piece about the use of language and the effect of different translations on the passage.

—A 3-5 minute presentation explaining your work and findings. (Costumes and other elements to enhance your fellow students’ learning are optional but encouraged.)

You will receive a group grade for this work. You will be assessed on the following criteria:

Dante Project Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Project title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other group members:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Historical**  **Content** | Clear, detailed research, depth, understanding, and analysis that strongly ties to literature and utilizes multiple, good sources. **(25 pts.)** | Clear research showing understanding and analysis that mostly ties to literature. Research may not be detailed or use many sources.  **(22 pts.)** | Somewhat clear research with some understanding and analysis. Not deep enough and may not tie well to literature. **(19 pts.)** | Little research and clear analysis. Not deep with little comprehensive understanding. Does not tie to literature. **(15 pts.)** | Historical content absent.  **(0 pts.)** |
| **Literary Analysis** | Clear, detailed analysis with depth of multiple translations that strongly ties to historical/ medieval life. **(25 pts.)** | Clear analysis showing understanding of multiple translations. Ties to historical/ medieval life. May lack some depth. **(22 pts.)** | Somewhat clear analysis with some understanding. Little use of multiple translations. Lacks depth and tie in. **(19 pts.)** | Little analysis and clarity. Not deep with understanding and use of multiple translations. Does not tie to history. **(15 pts.)** | Literary analysis absent.  **(0 pts.)** |
| **Visual presentation** | Educational & aesthetically pleasing presentation. Clear and conducive to note taking and learning. **(15 pts.)** | Education presentation displaying information in a clear manner. May be too cluttered to be conducive to learning. **(13 pts.)** | Somewhat clear and conducive to learning. Lacks depth or appropriate detail and tie in. **(11 pts.)** | Unclear, messy and teaches very little. Lack depth and detail. **(10 pts.)** | Visual presenta-tion absent. **(0 pts.)** |

Properly formatted MLA works cited page /5

Extra Credit: Good use of Primary Source Document to help enhance historical research +1 +2 +3

**TOTAL SCORE /70**

*You will also be receiving a 5-point Participation Grade for your participation in the market and contribution to your group.*

Dante Project Groups

1. Your project involves research into the role of Islamic culture in medieval Europe along with a close reading of canto XXVIII, where Dante represents Mohammed and Ali, two leaders of Islam. This canto takes place in Circle 8, Ditch 9 of Malebolge: Sowers of Discord.

2. Your project involves research into the importance of the poet Virgil in the Middle Ages along with a close reading of canto IV. This canto takes place in Circle 1 of the Inferno, Limbo.

3. Your project involves research into the penal code/ criminal justice system in the Middle Ages. You will focus on the punishment of thieves and discuss Dante's depiction of their punishment in cantos XXIV. This canto takes place in Circle 8, Ditch 7 of Malebolge: Thieves.

4. Your project involves research into the Franciscan movement begun by the monk Francis of Assisi, later known as St. Francis. Why was what Francis did so radical and what was he protesting against? Your project also involves a close reading of canto XIX. This canto takes place in Circle 8, Ditch 3 of Malebolge: Simoniacs

5. Your project involves research into the nature of fortune telling, alchemy, and magic in the Middle Ages along with a close reading of canto XXIX. This canto takes place in Circle 8, Pocket 10 of Malebolge: Falsifiers.

6. Your project involves research into the nature of money and commerce in the Middle Ages along with a close reading of canto VII, where international finance is mentioned. This canto takes place in Circle 4 of the Inferno: Hoarders and Wasters.

7. Your project involves research into the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas along with a close reading of canto XI. This canto takes place in Circle 6: Heretics.

8. Your project involves research into the policies and practices followed by Popes Boniface and Clement along with a close reading of canto XIX, where Dante depicts his response to the role of Boniface and Clement in politics and the church. This canto takes place in Circle 8, Ditch 3 of Malebolge: Simoniacs.