Hello, my name is Ron Dreiling, and this letter introduces readers of it to important features of the class. *Including how to confirm attendance and not be dropped as a no show.* These are explained a little further on down, but first, what will this class be about?

The Class introduces themes and methods of inquiry of the Humanities. Compares and contrasts ideas and cultural expressions of Western and Non-Western Civilizations, focusing on a selected theme chosen each term.

The course theme focuses upon the ways in which human culture--its religions, philosophies, visual arts, literature, and music--has been influenced by its relationship to nature and how these relationships have resulted in our current attitudes toward the environment, toward nature.

In other words, we'll be looking at cultural artifacts from various time periods and cultures and examine them for what they say about the people who created them and how the interrelate to one-another and how they do or do not continue to influence current attitudes toward “nature,” toward open spaces beyond the cities. We'll move toward trying to figure out how we have wound up where we are today in regards to our current environmental challenges.

**Class Website Opens, our Learning Management System, to registered/enrolled Students at 10:00 am on the first day of the semester, August 21st. Login, complete the Discussion assignment (you can’t miss it and it only takes about 30 or 45 minutes) prior to the end of Tuesday, August 22nd.**

**Learning Management System Information:** Please log into Canvas by visiting [https://coc.instructure.com](https://coc.instructure.com) after 10:00 am on the first day of the semester, August 21st. You will not be able to login to the website prior to that. Login information will be emailed to you prior to the start of the course as well, so check your canyons.edu account. If you haven’t used or want a refresher on Canvas, please visit the [guides](https://coc.instructure.com).
(Remember, the website is not available until the first day of class, the official start date.) Use this information to login to our Canvas delivered course:

**URL:**  [https://coc.instructure.com/](https://coc.instructure.com/)

**Username:** the student’s My Canyons username  
**Password:** student

Please change your password after you login to Canvas for the first time.  
**How to change password:** [https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2893](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2893)

I want to repeat this information because it’s so important: To avoid being dropped as a no show, registered students must complete a short (30-45 minutes of your time) discussion post prior to the end of Tuesday, August 22nd, 11:59 pm. Complete details are provided at the class website.

If you are reading this letter, you may already be enrolled in the class or you are considering enrolling in the class. However, if the class is full and you are trying to add the class, know that I cannot add any students until after the second day of the semester, at which time I will add the top waitlisted students. Students who are not on the waitlist do not have a reasonable chance of gaining access to the course. Waitlisted students should email me on the second day of the semester to find out if a place has opened for them.

So why take Humanities 100? Here are the class’s main learning objectives:

**Student Learning Outcome:**
1. Compare, and contrast the basic method of inquiry used in Philosophy, History, and the study of Art and Literature.
2. Compare and contrast the ideas and values expressed in selected works of history, philosophy, art, and literature from the same time period as well as in different time periods.

**Course Objectives:**
1. Identify key historical, philosophical, artistic, and literary figures and terms from the chosen works
2. Apply interpretive frameworks used in the humanities to assigned texts and works of art.
3. Analyze relationships between ideas and values of different texts within the same time period.

4. Construct relationships and comparisons between the ideas and values expressed in humanistic works of different time periods.

5. Compare and contrast values and ideas expressed in different epochs to the values and ideas expressed in contemporary times.

6. Demonstrate the ability to relate written and visual works to their cultural and historical context.

But how will the class operate, what can students expect?

All of our work occurs at our class website, a Canvas delivered virtual classroom. I encourage students to visit this website and become familiar with Canvas’ features by viewing some or all of the tutorials at guides.

The class activities students complete will utilize nearly every one of the features explained at this resource. If you wish to start the semester by hitting the ground and running, which is how I teach the class, then reviewing these tutorials will be an excellent strategy.

Once you learn how to move around effectively inside the Canvas website, what next?

In order to successfully complete this course, you must have ready and reliable access to the Internet. You must log into our class’s site many times a week and on several different days each week to retrieve and submit assignments, to complete quizzes, and to participate in message board activities, blogs, and journals with classmates and me.

If you are going to be unable to participate in this manner, this is not the course for you. However, just as in traditional “brick room” class formats, if you know in advance that you are going to be unable to access the website, the "click room," for two or three days,” accommodations can be made with me that will lessen the negative impact of your “absence” on your grade. This is not a class where you can complete work a week or two ahead of your classmates or make up work that was assigned to be completed a week or two ago. Students who do not login to our class website for a period of four or more days will fail the course.

This class will allow you the opportunity to meet deadlines in a manner most convenient to your schedule. For instance, you will never be required to logon to the website at a
specific time, say . . . 2:15 pm on October 18th. However, you will have assignment deadlines that must be met (quizzes, discussion board posts, group work, journals, blogs, essays, exams). You can complete work in advance, save it to your computer, and then post it at our virtual classroom at the appropriate time. Specific effects of turning in work late are explained in detail for each assignment.

Is an online class like this one suitable to your learning styles, skill-set, and preparation? You need to be computer literate, Internet savvy, and well skilled in document creation and handling. Essays must be submitted to me in a current version of Microsoft Word, Google Docs file. At our website, I provide you with information on how to obtain free PC and Mac versions of Microsoft Word.

Technical problems do not constitute grounds for an “excused” late submission.

For students to succeed in this class, they need to be self-motivated, independent, and have the time required to complete the class. If you do not know if this type of learning experience will work well for you, take the following distance learning self-assessments: and determine your technology know-how level and use what you learn to make an informed decision as to whether or not to take this class:
http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/info/Assessments.asp

Required Textbooks: the first book listed below is our primary text. We read from it every week of the semester. Without this textbook, you will fail the course. It’s that simple, really.
The textbook below is also required. It’s a new translation of the oldest work of recorded literature. You’ll enjoy realizing how contemporary the issues it raises are. You MUST
acquire this edition, this book. There are hundreds of others out there. They don’t work for this class.
The COC bookstore will have the books in stock. Because this is a fast moving class, delays in acquiring the textbooks above tend to result in serious points lost. Have the required text in hand a week or more before the semester begins to ensure you are able to complete the opening week's activities, many of which simply cannot be completed without the text. I have tried to keep the cost of the textbook as low as I could and still maintain access to quality resources. The textbook is an important learning tools, and if you wish to succeed in the class, you need to have access to it. There are many other editions out there. They don’t work for this class.

About eight weeks into the 16 week semester, you will need to purchase ONE of the following novels. You chose which novel based on class activities and your personal preference.

**CEREMONY-30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION | Edition: 06**

Author: SILKO  
ISBN: 9780143104919  
Publication Date: 12/26/2006  
Publisher: PENG RAND  
Estimated Student Price (Savings based on Print, New):

- Print, new: $17.00
- Print, used: $12.75  **(25% Savings)**
- Print, new rental: $11.05  **(35% Savings)**
- Print, used rental: $7.65  **(55% Savings)**
- eBook, buy: $14.00  **(18% Savings)**
Student use of this title is: Required

BN.com Details
Title: Ceremony: (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition)
Author: Leslie Marmon Silko, Larry McMurtry (Introduction)
Publisher: Penguin Publishing Group

WHEN THE KILLING'S DONE | Edition: 11
Author: BOYLE
ISBN: 9780143120391
Publication Date: 02/28/2012
Publisher: PENG RAND
Estimated Student Price (Savings based on Print, New):
Print, new: $16.00
Print, used: $12.00 (25% Savings)
Print, new rental: $12.80 (20% Savings)
Print, used rental: $3.20 (80% Savings)
eBook, buy: $13.00 (19% Savings)
Student use of this title is: Required

BN.com Details
Title: When the Killing's Done
Author: T. C. Boyle
Publisher: Penguin Publishing Group
Note submitted:

Students order either the Silko novel Ceremony or the Boyle novel When the Killing's Done after they attend class.

Online Guest Lecture Streaming Audio Series

In addition to our Literature and the Environment anthology, Gilgamesh, and one of the novels, we are going to be utilizing a free online lecture series from Ken Hiltner titled "Introduction to Literature and the Environment" (published 2013).

Ken Hiltner is a professor of environmental humanities at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB). The Director of both the Environmental Humanities Initiative and the Literature and Environment Center, Hiltner has appointments in the English and Environmental Studies Departments.

He’s taught courses at Princeton, Harvard, and COC. (Okay, I made that COC thing up. Just making sure you’re paying attention.) If you want to learn more about him, check out his website, KenHiltner.com.

We won’t be using all 16 lectures, more like 8 or 9 of them. Each is about an hour long. I encourage you to listen to more than I assign, if you are so inclined. They are fascinating.

You will see the lectures are available for free and via YouTube or iTunes. If you are commuting or otherwise spending quite a bit of quality time with your "ear buds," then iTunes works well.

Within the appropriate Week at the modules page, I'll give you links to the series of lectures and directions as to which one to listen to during which week. They are labeled lecture 1, Lecture 2, Lecture 3, so there shouldn't be any confusion as to which lecture to listen to When I assign you to listen to lecture 5, for instance.

YouTube:  https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxYUplJfsNvgA_J5nHWrwyHikF151_bWC (Links to an external site.)

iTunes:    https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/introduction-to-literature/id616230020?mt=10 (Links to an external site.)

Syllabus/Calendar of Assignments:

The syllabus and assignments calendar is not available until you enter the course website. However, for those who wish to get a head start on reading required material
from our texts, read some of the essays from our Environment and Literature Anthology.

Grades:

Final grades will be based on how many of the 1,000 possible points you acquire during the semester and correlated to the standard 90, 80, 70, 60 percentage scale. (90% of however many points are possible on an individual assignments will result in an A grade, 80% a B grade, 70% a C grade, etc. on that assignment.)

Grades:

Final grades will be based on how many of the 1,000 possible points students acquire during the semester and correlated to the standard 90, 80, 70, 60 percentage scale. (90% of however many points are possible on an individual assignments will result in an A grade, 80% a B grade, 70% a C grade, etc. on that assignment.)

250 points: Discussion boards, group work, engagement journals
50 points: Reading Quizzes
400 points: Two Short Writing Projects (3-4 pages—Close readings of “texts”) The first writing project is worth 150 points; the second 250 points.
50 points: Final Exam:
250 points: Final Project: Writing project about one of the novels, the one you chose for this project from the list of two above.

The grading criteria and number of points for course projects will be provided. However, I will not assign a specific point value to every single act students perform or indicate with 100% fullness how many points will be deducted for late work. Those students who are prepared, thorough, timely, courteous and supportive to others, and fully complete the assigned activity will receive higher grades on their Group work and Discussion Board components of the course than those who do not exhibit these characteristics.

Finally, I’ve been teaching online courses for quite a few years, and the course I have built for Humanities 100 will guide you toward becoming an improved writer and critical thinker, among other things. But keep in mind that online courses like this one require a high level of self-initiative. The course is ideally suited for students who have demonstrated success in earlier writing classes and have shown a capacity for
self-directed study.

I know that completing this course will bring an increase in knowledge about how to communicate more effectively with the written word and exposure to culturally significant art. I hope that completing this course will bring a certain level of entertainment and even pleasure.

Sincerely,

Ron Dreiling

Professor, English
Office Email: ron.dreiling@canyons.edu