

- **A letter from Dr. Furman-Adams to her Dante class in reference to the transition to online learning**

Zoom Dante 1

Hi and welcome back, wherever you are in physical space. We'll have to think of ourselves as pilgrims in a whole new way now, since we're in exile from our beloved Hoover 005. But I hope we can manage.

If we fritz out at any point during our class, I'll log back in--and you do the same--and we'll see if we can finish our class and have office hours today. That's our best-case scenario.

Since there may be glitches, I've redesigned the class to depend more on you--which might be a good thing.

Every class day you'll have notes and questions to work from as you read--and you'll submit your journal entries (like small papers) on Moodle each Wednesday and Friday and I'll read as we go. Clear? You don't have to answer every question in writing (please don't!), but consider them all--and write something about what struck you about each canto (reading informed and keeping the whole in mind).

If today goes really well, I'll stop sweating quite so much blood on them. But I'll try to make sure you have all you need to do well, whether Zoom works all the time or not.

During class, because you will have done more to prepare, we'll focus on really key passages (I've "taught" you the rest on the hand-out)--and on any questions you have, after doing all the work.

A humbling week for me, learning Zoom and sharpening (only a little) my understanding of Moodle. Big thanks to Angela Olivas, Sonia Chaidez--and to Rhett Ariston, who I think is with us. I think Dr. Morris is back too. Welcome to both of you!

The letter above titled “Zoom Dante 1” is significant for many reasons. Notice the uncertainty that Dr. Furman-Adams exhibits in the transition from in person to Zoom mid semester. This uncertainty is something that I'm sure all professors teaching classes in the spring 2020 semester can relate to. Dr. Furman-Adams discusses the possibilities of tech failures such as glitches or a Zoom crash. I would also like to bring to attention the extra responsibilities placed on professors during this transition. Dr. Furman-Adams discusses learning how to use Zoom, and sharpening her understanding of moodle, coupled with this she explains to the class changes are assignments, notes, and reading. This letter is exemplary of the struggles that many professors faced as well as the immense leadership. While Dr. Furman-Adams explains her struggles, she also expresses a fearless steering of the metaphorical ship, guiding her class through the hardships that they all will inevitably face. She says “I’ll try to make sure you have all you need to do well, whether Zoom works all the time or not”. Dr. Furman-Adams reassures her class that whether the initial transition is smooth, rough, or in between that she would make sure to provide students with the resources they need to be successful, this exhibits the leadership, fearlessness and initiative that professors had to exhibit for their students during the chaotic transition to distance learning.