

# Welcome to English 201A!

## English Composition

Summer 2017

Distance Education

CRN's 50175 and 50177

June 12, 2017—July 21, 2017

**Professor:** Marilyn Rossa, J.D., MA

**Email:** Please use Moodle messaging for this course.

My general college email is [mrossa@cuesta.edu](mailto:mrossa@cuesta.edu).

Hello to all of you~~

Just a note about me:

I am a very experienced, full-time faculty member who has taught more sections (by far) of English 201A online than any other instructor in the English Department. And, I love it! Teaching four or five sections of 201A online every semester for the past eight years, I've learned how to better reach you and teach you—the student. I hope to meet you soon in cyberspace.

## Brief Course Description

Provides a study of and practice in the use of language and writing of argumentative/analytical essays and research papers. Prerequisite: ENGL 50, ENGL 156 or ENGL 165 with a grade of C or better Transfer: CSU; UC. (Formerly ENGL1A)

### ***Disabled Students:***

If you are a student with a verified disability, please discuss your needs for accommodations with me as soon as possible, but no later than the first day of the course.

## Office Hours

Due to the nature of distance education, I will not hold traditional office hours for this class. I can be reached by email Monday through Friday. I will make every attempt to respond to you within 24 hours. I spend a lot of time in front of my screen, so I'm on our class site multiple times a day, often including weekends. I am available to you.

## Who Should Take an Online Course?

### **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT**

**This course is designed for students who have computer literacy and are self-motivated. In addition, this class is not self-paced. You will have set due dates for readings, discussions, and assignments. In addition, much of your learning will happen through reading. You will be reading the lectures online and reading the material in your texts.**

***An anecdote:*** Recently, I was working with a student in the Writing Center who was planning to enroll in English 201A. I asked him if he was going to take the class on campus or online. He said, “I’m going to take the real class—the one in the classroom.” I used this situation as a teachable moment, which I’ll pass on to you. A distance education class is a REAL class—just as rigorous and just as informative. In fact, sometimes the online mode is even less flexible than a traditional classroom. For example, when you have an assignment due on a particular date and time, Moodle will not accept the assignment past that time whereas in a traditional class you might have a bit more flexibility.

The best advice I can give you is this: **DON’T FALL BEHIND!** It will be very difficult to catch up.

## Computer Requirements

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS TO RUN Moodle (web-based course management program this course uses).

In order to participate in an online class from home, your system will need to meet the following requirements:

(The minimum hardware and software requirements for Moodle/DE plus links to free downloads have been added to the student faq:

[http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/faqs.htm#What are the hardware/software requirements](http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/faqs.htm#What_are_the_hardware/software_requirements))

**THE ABOVE LINK COULD BE THE MOST VALUABLE PIECE OF DATA IN THIS WELCOME LETTER. IT MAY ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS.**

Any computer less than 4 years old should work:

- **Minimum PC requirements**
  - 500 megahertz (MHz) processor or higher
  - 256 MB RAM or higher
  - Windows XP
  - 1024 x 768 or higher-resolution monitor
  -
- **Minimum Macintosh requirements:**
  - Intel, PowerPC G5, or PowerPC G4 (500 MHz or faster) processor
  - Mac OS X version 10.4.9 or later
  - 512 MB of RAM or more
  - 1024 x 768 or higher-resolution monitor

**You must have a reliable Internet Service Provider (ISP) offering DSL, Cable or Satellite setup.**

- A working e-mail account and access to the World Wide Web
- Log on information for Moodle course management system (see below)
- **Access to Microsoft Word so that papers can be submitted in proper MLA format.**
- Ability to save files in Microsoft Word (.doc) and Rich Text Format (rtf)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in. This is a free plug-in that will enable you to read any of the readings or handouts that are in PDF format. You can download the free plug-in at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

- Access to a public or college library: All English 201A students are required to complete the Cuesta College Library Research Workbook. Most of this workbook can be completed by using the databases to which you have access as a Cuesta student (you'll learn more about these databases later in the course). However, in order to complete all parts of the workbook, you will need to visit an actual library that has typical reference materials; in other words, you will need to touch books! Local students may use either of Cuesta's libraries at the SLO or Paso campuses. Other students can complete the assignment by visiting a local public or college library.

### **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT**

**For success in this course, you must have access to a reliable computer, an email account, and a functioning Internet connection. You should also have a backup plan should your system or your Internet provider fail you. Since you will email your assignments via Moodle's internal system, you must at least have a basic understanding of how to use email, navigate the Internet, and communicate online.**

### **Moodle**

For this course, we will use the Moodle course management system. The majority of our interaction and communication--along with lessons--will occur through Moodle. Make note of the following login information. **You must log on by the first day of the class** or else you may be dropped from the roster so that others may add.

**Required Texts and Materials (available at the [Cuesta College Bookstore](#) unless otherwise indicated). All texts except the LRW are available on line. Cuesta also ships.**

- *Writing with Style*, John Trimble, 3rd edition
- *Mariette in Ecstasy*, Ron Hansen
- *Library Research Workbook*, current edition

Please be sure to log on the first day of class for further information. I'm looking forward to working with all of you!

Marilyn Rossa



## Moodle login information

Students can get to the Moodle quick reference two ways:

- Via myCuesta: Click on the **How-To Materials** link in the “Tech Tips for Students” channel on myCuesta’s Students tab, and then click on the **Moodle for students quick reference** link (under the category, Miscellaneous).

Via link:

[http://academic.cuesta.edu/training/training\\_materials/Moodle\\_for\\_students\\_QR.pdf](http://academic.cuesta.edu/training/training_materials/Moodle_for_students_QR.pdf)

AND

The below comes directly from our tech, Lee:

“Login name matches your my.cuesta login name:  
firstname\_lastname.

Default Moodle password is: Changeme1.

You will be forced to change your password the first time you login.

There is a Login-to-Moodle link on <http://cuesta.edu>.  
Look on the lower right side of the page.  
Or go to this web page: <http://moodle.cuesta.edu> and login there.  
Online classes are exactly like face-to-face classes.  
They don't open, generally, until the first day of classes. Your  
online account will not be created until shortly before the Class  
Open date. Having an account does not mean you can enter the  
'class'; that is subject to the Open Date.”

If you need technical support, please contact [support@my.cuesta.edu](mailto:support@my.cuesta.edu)