Welcome to English 201A!

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. If you are allowed extended time on tests, please have your specialist or a member of the DSPS staff send me that information.

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.

<u>Who Should Take an Online Course?</u>

<p style="text-align:center; color:red;">THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT</p>

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, Canvas 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.

<u>Computer Requirements</u>

What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?

This is a list of basic computer system requirements to use Canvas. It is always recommended to use the most up-to-date versions and better connections. Canvas will still run with the minimum specifications, but you may experience slower loading times.

Canvas and its hosting infrastructure are designed for maximum compatibility and minimal requirements.

Screen Size

Canvas is best viewed at a minimum of 800x600, which is the average size of a notebook computer. If you want to view Canvas on a device with a smaller screen, we recommend using the Canvas mobile app.

Operating Systems

- Windows 7 and newer (users on Windows 10 need to download the [Windows 10 Anniversary Update](#) to submit Canvas assignments)
- Mac OSX 10.6 and newer
- Linux - chromeOS

Mobile Operating System Native App Support

- iOS 7 and newer (versions vary by device)
- Android 4.2 and newer

Computer Speed and Processor

- Use a computer 5 years old or newer when possible
- 1GB of RAM
- 2GHz processor

Internet Speed

- Along with compatibility and web standards, Canvas has been carefully crafted to accommodate low bandwidth environments.
- Minimum of 512kbps

Screen Readers

- Macintosh: [VoiceOver](#) (latest version for Safari)
- PC: [JAWS](#) (latest version for Internet Explorer)
- PC: [NVDA](#) (latest version for Firefox)
- There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome

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 Canvas's internal system, you

must at least have a basic understanding of how to use email, navigate the Internet, and communicate online.

You must also have

- Access to Microsoft Word so that papers can be submitted in proper MLA format. You can purchase it at a very reasonable price at the Cuesta bookstore or online. I do not accept google docs.

- Ability to save files in Microsoft Word (.doc).

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.

If you need technical support, please contact support@my.cuesta.edu

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 online. Cuesta also ships.

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

I'm looking forward to working with all of you!

Marilyn Rossa