

**Art 200:  
Art Appreciation (Online)**

Welcome to Art Appreciation online! My name is Mary Renzi and I will be your instructor for this course. This letter provides the basic information necessary to enroll in the online version of Art 200. Once enrolled in the course, refer to the class schedule for the time and place of the one time MANDATORY class meeting. Email me prior to the meeting if you have a legitimate conflict. (Please type "student" in the subject line.) **Any registered student who fails to attend this mandatory meeting may be dropped from the class.**

Art 200 is a CSU, UC transferable course that provides an overview of the visual arts. We will be visiting the world's major museums, traveling to each of the continents and moving from prehistoric times to the present, exploring the cultural, historical and personal significance of visual art via the Internet.

Expect to spend at least as much time in this course as you do in a traditional class. While you can work at your convenience (I'm writing this at 1:00 am!), this is not a self-paced course. There will be due dates for written discussion board postings, quizzes and exams. I will offer online office hours.

While there are no prerequisites for this course, there are some things you should consider to determine if you are a good candidate for online learning. If after reading this letter you are unsure, take this quiz:

<http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/survey.htm>

Once enrolled, send me your email address as soon as possible.

[mrenzi@cuesta.edu](mailto:mrenzi@cuesta.edu)

You will be able to log into the course using the instructions listed below on the first day of the semester. If you have any questions prior to the first day of class, please feel free to email me. As soon as you log into the course be sure and read the class syllabus very carefully. Print it out and refer to it often during the semester.

**Material Requirements:**

The following textbooks are required and can be purchased through Cuesta's bookstore, Aidas (on Foothill in San Luis) or online. **You will need the books prior to the first day of class.**

<http://bookstore.cuesta.org>

[http://www.amazon.com/Prebles-Artforms-MyArtKit-Patrick-Frank/dp/013514132X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1240435082&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Prebles-Artforms-MyArtKit-Patrick-Frank/dp/013514132X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1240435082&sr=1-1)

1. "Prebles' Artforms, Ninth Edition" by Patrick L. Frank

(You do not need "Artnotes" and the CD is optional)

2. "Understanding the Comics" by Scott McCloud. Publisher: HarperPerennial, ISBN 0-06-097625-X

#### **Computer Requirements:**

**You must have an email account and regular access to the Web on a computer that meets the requirements listed below.**

Computer: Any computer that is less than 4 years old should work. Pentium 3 or 4 or better. With 256 megabytes of RAM running Windows 98 or better. Any Macintosh with 128 megabytes of RAM running OS 9.0 or newer

Phone Modem: The minimal speed is 56.6k. Any slower and you will suffer timeout issues.

Broadband: Any DSL, Cable, or Satellite internet setup will work.

Develop a backup plan should your system or your Internet provider fail you. **You are responsible for meeting all deadlines.**

Internet Service Provider (ISP): You must be connected to the Internet by an Internet Service Provider that offers a reliable direct PPP connection. Frequent shut downs at critical points in the quarter could be very frustrating.

E-mail: All currently enrolled students have a Cuesta e-mail account as part of myCuesta (my.cuesta.edu). Your e-mail address is your first name underscore your lastname @ my.cuesta.edu (e.g. firstname\_lastname@my.cuesta.edu). You should have received notification of myCuesta with your username and password from admissions and records.

#### **Browsers:**

Firefox or Microsoft Internet Explorer work well. For MAC users, Safari works best. All of the recommended browsers may be downloaded at no cost.

It is best to run the *Browser Check* within Blackboard and use the browsers best suited to your system, by following their recommendations.

WebTV is not compatible with this course.

AOL is not recommended. If your Internet provider is AOL you may need to minimize AOL and download a recommended browsers.

#### **Software:**

You must have a "word processing" program with spell/grammar check. Microsoft Word is most compatible.

#### **Skills:**

You need some with experience navigating and using the Internet. Knowing how to download files, attach document files to e-mail, and use word processing software are critical skills in an online course environment. If you are uncertain about your abilities, then you may want to enroll in DIST 101: Introduction to Online. If you have little or no experience with computers at all, a good "on campus" class is CAO A 266.

The unique experience of an online class is well worth the technical glitches that can occur. Cultivate a willingness to trouble shoot and be willing to seek technical assistance. Bookmark this address:

<http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/techspt.htm>

#### **Technical Support:**

If you are having technical difficulties with the course web site, please contact Technical Support:

<http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/techspt.htm>

#### **Logging into the Course:**

Distant Ed Art 200 utilizes a web-based course management program called Blackboard. If you are enrolled in the class, you will be able to log into the class using your Blackboard account after the first official day of classes begins.

**IMPORTANT: You will to attend the mandatory meeting and log into the course sometime during the first two days of the semester to avoid being dropped for non-attendance.**

To log into your Blackboard account, please follow these instructions:

1. Go to the Blackboard site at

<http://cehosting.blackboard.com/webct/entryPage.dowebct>

(Bookmark this page!)

3. Click the Cuesta College link

2. Click on the Log In link. A dialog box will appear.

Your login ID will match your My.Cuesta login ID:

firstname\_lastname (Student Joan Smith would be: joan\_smith)

The default password is: STUDENT You can change your password once you login. This will be your password for all your online classes.

**Blackboard** is CASE SENSITIVE. Historically this has been the biggest problem students' encounter in logging into the course... The other is an old passwords. Try last semester's password if STUDENT doesn't work.

3. Remember to change your password and do not forget your new password.

**Remember: Bookmark the Blackboard Log In page.**

The course syllabus will be posted online in Blackboard and will cover class procedures, grading requirements, participation policies and the course calendar.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a verified disability, please discuss your needs for accommodations with me as soon as possible during the first week of the course.
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I look forward to working with you! Feel free to contact me with any questions. (Please type "student" in the subject line.)

Sincerely,  
Mary Renzi  
mrenzi@cuesta.edu