

**Welcome to SPC 201A: Public Speaking
Spring 2012
Course Reference Number (CRN): 32564
Start Date: January 18, 2012**

Dear Online Students:

Welcome to SPC 201A, Public Speaking! **This is a hybrid, distance education class.**

What that means is this:

1. All of your class work will be online—text book readings, assignments, tests, discussion posts, etc.
2. All of your speeches will be in person. They are mandatory meetings from 6-9 pm (dates below) in Room 4117. We will meet five times throughout the semester to give speeches. Failure to attend one of those meetings will result in a substantial grade loss or failure of the class depending on the speech and weight of the assignment. Your first meeting is the first Wednesday of the semester: January 18, 2012.

It is an exciting opportunity to combine online learning with public speaking. I look forward to your presence in this class.

Before I tell you more about the course, please review the login requirements and steps to make accessing the course more enjoyable.

Login requirements and Steps

This is a semester long course. Cuesta college uses Blackboard for online course work; you can access it through the following link:

<http://blackboard.cuesta.edu>

The following are directions for accessing your course:

1. To logon, go to the Blackboard site at: <http://blackboard.cuesta.edu>.
2. Enter your Cuesta user name (first name_last name) Ex: jack_black
3. Enter the Blackboard Default password. For your first logon, the default password is STUDENT (all caps).
4. You can then change your password (But don't forget to remember what you changed it to! Your Blackboard password can match your my.cuesta password.)

For any problems with Blackboard, please contact **Cuesta Support** at 546-3100 x 2802 or email: support@my.cuesta.edu, email is almost always the fastest link to help.

Computer and Internet Access information

- You will need a reasonably new computer, no more than 3 years old.
- A fast internet connection, DSL or Cable. A phone modem will not work due to timing errors. Currently, the only Satellite Internet provider that works is TCSN out of Paso Robles.
- Web browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox and Safari all work with Blackboard. Firefox works best.
- Cuesta Support recommends that you have, at least, 2 of these browsers installed on your computer. If one browser is having a problem, try one of the others.

Learning Objectives for this Course

At the close of this course, you will be able to:

1. Organize a speech for a specific speech purpose.
2. Outline a public message for a specific speech purpose.
3. Use oral public speaking skills to deliver a timed message appropriate to the speech purpose.
4. Provide supporting evidence specific to and appropriate for the speech purpose.
5. Create and distinguish speeches for different purposes, including speeches to inform and persuade.

Course Hours and Information:

Since this is a semester long class, you can expect to spend at least 9 hours per week engaging the material, posting to the discussion board, creating outlines, PowerPoint, doing research, and completing assignments.

Since this is a hybrid class, the majority of the work you will do will be online. We will meet 5 times throughout the semester. These meetings are mandatory. Again, failure to attend one of those meetings will result in a substantial grade loss or failure of the class depending on the speech and weight of the assignment.

The meeting times will be as follows in Room 4117 on the San Luis Obispo Campus from 6-9 pm. Your class meets on Wednesday nights.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Meeting 1--Opening/course description: | January 18 th |
| Meeting 2--World View Speeches: | February 15 th |
| Meeting 3--PowerPoint Speeches: | March 14 th |
| Meeting 4--Informative Speeches: | April 4 th |
| Meeting 5--Persuasive Speeches: | May 9 th |

These mandatory meetings are not negotiable. You must attend and you must make sure that you have no other obligations on those nights. I cannot stress this enough.

Accommodations and Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact me at the beginning of the course to discuss any such accommodations. You should also contact DSPS (Disabled Student Programs & Services) at 805-546-3148, or through email <http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/dsps>

Is an online class for you?

I am interested only in your success. I will be available to assist you in your learning, but I cannot assess whether an online class is right for you. Successful online students are typically self-motivated and self directed. Successful students also manage their time effectively, are able to follow written instructions and have sound computer and writing skills.

If you are unsure as to whether an online class is right for you, please visit the following link and take the college's self-assessment survey at:

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

You may also take one of the following assessment tests for online preparedness at these sites:

1. <http://lrc.sierra.cc.ca.us/dl/survey/OL-student-assess.html>
2. <http://www.miracosta.cc.ca.us/Instruction/DistanceEducation/quiz.aspx>
3. <http://www.cerrocoso.edu/studentervices/survey1.asp>

How to contact me:

I am always available through email at mvasques@cuesta.edu You can expect a response within 24 hours (weekends excluded). I will also have SKYPE hours which will be announced the first week. My SKYPE name is Professor.Vasques.

Finally, I look forward to the possibilities this class has to offer all of us. It is a new way to learn and deliver a Public Speaking class. I am looking forward to this class and looking forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,
Matt Vasques
mvasques@cuesta.edu