

**English 156 Hybrid Course
Pre-Enrollment Information
Spring 2012—CRN 32563 and CRN 30185**

Hello potential students! My name is Stacy Pointer, and I'm excited to teach Cuesta's hybrid English 156.

Welcome to the world of online learning:

I'm presuming this is a new experience for the majority of you, so please read on to determine whether a hybrid course is right for you!

If you plan to take this course but feel you do not possess the necessary technology skills to succeed, you should consider taking the DIST 101, a half unit, 3-week course that will introduce you to some basic technologies used in online courses.

To find out if an online course is right for you, go to <http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/who.htm> and take the self-assessment survey.

The first requirement is that you must be available every Monday afternoon from 1:00-2:50 (CRN32563) and 3:00-4:50 (CRN 30185) for our face-to-face (F2F) meetings. These meetings will require you to write short reading log responses in the Writing Center and/or take quizzes and/or discuss assignments. If you cannot attend class on Monday, you MUST NOT enroll in the course. **So our first F2F meeting of the semester will be Monday, January 23rd (since Monday is a holiday for the first week of instruction, we meet the 2nd week). However, you should access the class online beginning Tuesday, Jan. 17th.** You'll see the first week folder of materials—always print the checklist at the beginning of each week (it will help you remember assignments and your responsibilities!).

Course Description:

English 156 is designed to prepare you for English 201A, the freshman composition level course. You must have taken and received a "C" or better in English 099 OR taken the Cuesta assessment test (with the qualifying score) to be eligible for this course.

You will do a lot of reading and writing, so be prepared to spend the required "2 hours of study time for every 1 hour of class time." And please note that this requirement only applies to "study time," not the extra time required in a distance education course to navigate the technology, to respond to online discussions and/or to contribute to our online assignments.

Computer Requirements:

Your computer should be a recent model (four years old or less). You must have 256 MB of free RAM and 20 MB of free disk space. Make sure you have one of the following operating systems and web browser configurations.

- With WINDOWS operating systems: Windows XP or Windows Vista, use the most updated version of Firefox (NOTE: internet explorer 7.0 might work, but it has been my experience that Firefox works better)
- With Macintosh operating system: MacOSX 10.5, use Firefox or Safari (most recent version!)
- You will also need a 28.8 speed modem or higher (DSL or Cable modem is best. Please note that Wildblue internet provider, which many North County residents like me have to use, is NOT very fast; I spend a lot of time at Starbucks ☺).

In addition to the computer requirements, you also need a basic understanding of how to use email, including how to activate your myCuesta gmail account. You CAN forward email to an address of your choice by clicking the “Settings” link (top of Cuesta gmail page) and then choosing “Forwarding and POP/IMAP” (there are instructions on this in myCuesta).

Log-on to Blackboard no later than Wednesday, Jan. 18th by 5:00 p.m.!!!

If you do not log on (or contact me to report an emergency situation), you will be dropped so that someone else can add the course!

In order to log on to your Blackboard account, please follow these instructions: Go to the blackboard site at <http://cehosting.blackboard.com/webct/entryPage.dowebct>. Go to “Login” rather than “Course list” and type your Banner ID where it asks for your user ID (looks like this: stacy_pointer). The default password is STUDENT—all upper case. Please don’t forget to change your password from the default (and make sure to remember the new one!).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a verified disability—or you need information about our DSPTS program, please contact the DSPTS program at 546-3148 (SLO campus) or 591-6215 (North County campus). You will also need to let me know by the second class meeting (our first F2F meeting on campus).

Contacting Me:

If you have any questions, please email me at spointer@cuesta.edu. Be sure to put E156 hybrid class in the subject heading.

Thanks, and I’ll see you soon!

