ECE 236, Distance Education
UNDERSTANDING THE CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
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ECE 236 is now online; all coursework (discussions, assignments, exams) will be completed outside of a classroom and submitted online. There are no face-to-face class meetings. Keep in mind that this course will require as much time as a traditional course, but you will find more flexibility.

Is an online class for you?
Are you self-motivated, self-directed, able to follow written instructions, and have the computer and writing skills necessary? There are always inherent technical difficulties when working with computers. This particular class is completely online. There is no on-campus orientation, and all assignments are submitted, and exams taken online. Visit the following link and take the self-assessment survey: http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/who.htm

Office hours & Virtual office hours
- When the semester starts, I am available by e-mail (using the Blackboard email tool) to answer questions or address any concerns. I will make every attempt to respond within 24 hours Monday-Friday.
- Use vroof@cuesta.edu if you need to contact me prior to the start of class. When the course begins (day one of the semester), email me using the Blackboard email tool.
- Always write **ECE 236 DE** on the subject line of your emails (if you are e-mailing me outside of Blackboard).
- If there is an emergency, you may leave a message with Human Development @ (805) 546-3263.

Required Textbooks:

Allen, K. Eileen and Cowdery, Glynnis E. "The Exceptional Child: Inclusion in Early Childhood Education 6th Edition." Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning, 2008.
Weekly chapter readings are required.

Gould, Patti & Sullivan, Joyce. "The Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom: Easy Ways to Adapt Learning Centers for all Children." Beltsville, Maryland: Gryphon House, 1999.

Access to the Course:
- You can log into the course on the first day of the semester. You can NOT access the course before the semester starts!

- When the semester starts, please log in right away so that you will not be dropped from the course. Mark your calendars! I will not contact you. Starting on day one of the semester, course information will be provided in Blackboard.
- To log in, go to http://blackboard.cuesta.edu and follow the instructions. There is also now a direct link to Blackboard on our Cuesta home page (http://cuesta.edu). It is located on the lower right hand corner of the page.
- Your login ID matches your Banner/mycuesta ID: firstname_lastname (all lower case). The default password for Blackboard is STUDENT (all upper case). Change your password once you have logged in. Passwords for mycuesta and Blackboard can be set to be the same, that is your choice. If you have taken a course before, through Blackboard/WebCT, you will use your existing password.
- If you are having technical difficulties, please contact Cuesta Tech Support at support@my.cuesta.edu.

Navigating in Blackboard/Starting the Course:

- Once you have access to the course in Blackboard, you'll need to know how to navigate it. Please check out the following student tutorial: http://ol.nl.edu/ce6student/GeneralInterface-sv1.htm. (Even though this is a WebCT tutorial, it will help you navigate in Blackboard quite efficiently.)
- For ECE 236 DE, begin by clicking on Course Content (the course homepage) under Course Tools in the top left column. This is the starting point for all navigation.
- The first folder you will want to access, Course Information, is at the top of the course homepage. Click on Course Information to read and print the Syllabus & Calendar, learn about helpful Blackboard Tips, and more.
- Once you have completely reviewed ALL of the materials in the Course Information folder, you'll be ready to start Unit I (the next folder on the course homepage). **Be prepared to do reading in the textbook & complete your first weekly assignment in the first week of classes**.

Minimum Computer Requirements: You need a **reliable** computer and internet connection, as well as a Cuesta e-mail account (check your Cuesta email before the beginning of the semester for course updates). Additionally, your computer needs to meet minimum system requirements to run Blackboard, the web-based course management program we are using.

Windows

- Windows 2000/NT/XP/2003 (Windows 98 does work, but newer is preferred. Vista also works.)
- Intel Pentium-II or higher

- Mozilla/Firefox or Internet Explorer 6.0
- QuickTime 7 – free download: http://www.apple.com/quicktime

Macintosh

- MAC OS X or newer
- Power Macintosh power PC processor (G3 or higher recommended)
- Mozilla 1.7 (OS X only), Firefox 1.0 (OS x only), Safari 1.2, 1.3, 2.0 (OS X only)
- QuickTime 7 – free download: http://www.apple.com/quicktime

Internet connection: DSL or cable connection is highly preferred & recommended, but 56K telephone modem may be sufficient.

Adobe Acrobat Reader: Most recent free version can be downloaded from: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

Accommodations: If you have a disability and might need accommodations in this class, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that you can receive appropriate accommodations in a timely manner. You should also contact DSPS (Disabled Student Programs & Services) at 805-546-3148 or http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/dsps