

WELCOME TO ENGLISH 201A!

English Composition

Fall 2009

08/17/09-12/18/09

Distance Education

Sections (CRN): 71370, 71371, and 71396

Instructor: Professor Marilyn Rossa

Office: Room 3449, San Luis Obispo Campus

Office Phone: 805.546.3100 ext. 2815

Email: mrossa@cuesta.edu

(Please indicate **"Online English 201A" and your course CRN #** in the subject line of all communications)

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.

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 or phone. I will make every attempt to respond to you within 24 hours.

Who Should Take an Online Course?

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: Last semester, 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, Blackboard 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.

Computer Requirements

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS TO RUN Blackboard (web-based course management program this course uses)

In order to participate in an online class from home, your system will need to meet the following requirements:

- A working e-mail account and access to the World Wide Web
- Web Browser: Netscape Navigator 4 or above (Mac, Windows) or Microsoft Explorer 4 or above (Mac, Windows)
- Computer Specs: Power Macintosh or Windows (Pentium) computer with at least a 200 MHz processor speed and a minimum of 64 MB of system RAM (memory)
- 28K or faster modem (the faster the better in order to save time and avoid frustration)
- Log on information for Blackboard course management system (see below)
- access to Microsoft Word so that papers can be submitted in proper MLA format

- ability to save files in Rich Text Format
- 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>.
- access to a public or college library: All English 201A students are required to complete the Cuesta College Library Research Workbook. Much of this workbook can be completed by using the databases to which you have access as a Cuesta student (you'll learn more about these databases later in the course). However, in order to complete all parts of the workbook, you will need to visit an actual library that has typical reference materials; in other words, you will need to touch books! Local students may use either of Cuesta's libraries at the SLO or Paso campuses. Other students can complete the assignment by visiting a local public or college library.

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 Blackboard's internal email system, you must at least have a basic understanding of how to use email, navigate the Internet, and communicate online.

Blackboard

For this course, we will use the Blackboard course management system. The majority of our interaction and communication--along with lessons--will occur through Blackboard. Make note of the following login information. **You must log on by the second day of the class** or else you may be dropped from the roster so that others may add.

To logon to our course, go to the Blackboard site at <http://blackboard.cuesta.edu>. To logon, enter your Banner user name (firstname_lastname) and your password, which for your first logon, will be STUDENT (all caps).

- Username: firstname_lastname

- Password: STUDENT (all caps)

You can then change your password (please remember what you change it to!)

Required Texts and Materials (available at the [Cuesta College Bookstore](#) unless otherwise indicated)

- *Writing with Style*, John Trimble, 2nd edition
- *Mariette in Ecstasy*, Ron Hansen
- *Library Research Workbook*, current edition
- A couple of scantrons, #882
- Postage as necessary

Please be sure to log on prior to the first day of class for further information. Contact me with any questions at mrossa@cuesta.edu. I'm looking forward to working with all of you!

Marilyn Rossa

