

WELCOME TO MARSALA'S 201C

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SKYPE Call Hours: M-TH 10-11 AM

ONLINE OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 9-10 AM

(I can be available during other hours if you let me know when you want to call or email. If you don't have a SKYPE account, simply go to the SKYPE website and register. We can talk free of charge with or without a camera. My goal is to make this online course a more personal one.)

A Note to Those Wishing to Add This Course if It Is Already Full: I cannot give add codes or add any student until the second day of class. If anyone drops through *Banner*, that spot becomes immediately available, so you need to check *Banner* frequently before the first class session. On the second day of class, I will take adds through email only on a first-come, first-serve basis. I will begin adding students, if spots are available, after 7 PM on the second day of class. To add, please email me ***on the second day of the semester*** your name, phone number, email address, and the CRN# for the course you wish to be enrolled in. I will ***not*** keep an add list before the second day of semester. If you email me before the second day of the semester, I will have no way of adding you to the official add list. I just cannot keep track of the many emails that come months, weeks, or days before a class begins. I will do my best to accommodate as many of you as I can. Good luck!

Welcome to English 201C, a course in research and academic writing. You must qualify for English 201C by completing English 201A with a grade of "C" or better. As you consider enrolling in this course, please take the time to evaluate if an online course is right for you as a learner. Talking to a counselor is a good way to begin. You should also take into account how comfortable you are with technology and without the regular contact available in a classroom environment. If you think, an online class is right for you, I look forward to working with you. We will be using our research paper project to create a Wiki at the end of the term on the topic of famous conspiracy theories, as they are debated in the online world. In this way, our writing becomes real in the world, and our research becomes part of the active, varied, and ongoing global dialogue.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: English 201C is a course in academic thinking and writing. A critical thinking class is a class in deep learning. It will teach you to evaluate problems in light of reason and evidence. It encourages students to discover and to process information in a variety of ways. In this class, you will learn to think your way to conclusions; to consider a broad spectrum of view points; to analyze concepts, theories and explanations; to clarify issues; to develop a reliable method for problem solving; to relate familiar ideas to new contexts; to examine assumptions; and to logically defend reliable positions of your own. You will reach these goals through active reading, writing and discussion. Through the writing process, you will learn to organize, synthesize, and transform your thoughts into sound discourse.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: You must purchase a copy of *Writing Logically, Thinking Critically 6th Edition*, by Cooper and Patton. I strongly recommend that you purchase the book from the Cuesta College Bookstore. This text, when new, comes with an access

number, free of charge, to a program called **MyCompLab**. If you purchase a used copy of the book, you can buy access to *MyCompLab* by going to the Pearson publishing website (simply “google” MyCompLab, and follow the instructions for buying access to the site; you will purchase the “Generic Version”.) In some cases, it may be cheaper to buy a new book with the free access code than to buy a used book and, then, have to pay for access. The current access fee is \$15.

We will be using MyComplab as the site for your class. You will find all assignments posted there. You will participate in “classroom” discussion on this site, and you will submit and retrieve you class work from MyCompLab. I have chosen MyCompLab rather than Blackboard for a number of reasons: it runs well for students with older computers; it has an audio grading program that allows me to literally talk to you as I grade your essays; it has many English resources online for the students; it was created by English teachers for English online classrooms and composing. It is very user friendly. It has 24/7 online chat tech support. ***You must have access to MyCompLab to take this online course. I will be giving you more information about this program later.***

Class Meetings: There will be no mandatory face-to-face meetings in this class. However, I am hoping that by using a tumbling blog and SKYPE, we will be able to create a more personal atmosphere than we would normally achieve in an online course. My goal is to try to create a space where we can utilize this technology to make discussion and writing exciting, relevant, and meaningful. You will be required to participate by logging on and adding your insights to our class discussion. You must log on a minimum of 2 times each week (4 times accelerated course students). Plan your time wisely. You will also need to have easy and reliable access to a good computer and an email account. My plan is to use mycuesta email as our primary source of email messaging, so make sure your mycuesta account is working. If you have problems, please contact Cuesta computer services for mycuesta problems.

Disabled Students: If you have a verifiable learning disability, please contact me during the first week of class to discuss strategies for mitigating problems or accessing resources.