

# Introduction to Library Services (LIBT 101)

## Welcome Page

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Hello Students:

Welcome to the Cuesta College Library/Information Technology Program. Our program is designed to prepare individuals for employment as paraprofessionals in a public, school, academic, or special library information center.

This is the Welcome Page for students enrolling in the required, introductory class, Library/Information Technology 101 (Introduction to Library Services) for the spring 2010 semester. LIBT 101 surveys the history, missions, services, personnel, and types of libraries and information centers. The course serves as an overview to the field and provides students with vocabulary and basic research skills that will be used throughout other courses in the program.

The course will be taught in the Blackboard Learning System online software. The course site will be available to students approximately one week prior to the beginning of the semester.

### *Pre-requisites*

**LIBT 101 has a pre-requisite class. This means that you must either have already taken or must simultaneously enroll in DIST 101 (Introduction to Online Courses) in order to stay enrolled in LIBT 101.** DIST 101 is a 3-week long, distance education course that helps you practice the critical skills that you will need to succeed in our distance education curriculum (e.g., subscribing to a listserv, logging on to password-protected sites, accessing Blackboard, saving files as rich text for attachments, and more).

### *Disabled Students*

Any student with a verifiable disability (must be verified with the college's DSPTS department) will need to let the instructor know as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodation can be made. Authorized accommodations and alternative media will be provided as appropriate.

The following is important information that may answer some of your questions about how the course will operate. We hope you will enjoy the opportunity to participate in a challenging learning environment.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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### **When does the class begin and end?**

Cuesta's spring semester officially begins on Tuesday, Jan. 19th; then on Sat. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, we have the mandatory in-person meeting and orientation for the Library Information Technician Program and for our course. It is held on the SLO campus, Library Reading Room, building 3200. But there are several important things to do **before** we meet in order to be fully prepared for our online course (see below). Last day of the class is March 19, 2010.

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### **Do I have to attend the mandatory orientation?**

*Yes. There are **no** exceptions.* If you are not there for the in-person, new student orientation, you will be dropped from the class and your place reassigned to a wait list student. We feel that this one-time face-to-face meeting is very important to student success in the online environment. We have students entering our program from all across the state of California and sometimes from other West Coast states. They will all be in attendance, as will all of our teaching faculty, the Library Director, and an academic counselor.

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### **Do I need to do anything before we meet?**

Yes, you will need to:

- Send the instructor your name and the e-mail address. *Please do this as soon as you have registered for the class.* All communication will be via e-mail, so we must have your name and current email address on file. Send the post to [sandra\\_rowland@cuesta.edu](mailto:sandra_rowland@cuesta.edu).

- The class will be taught in Blackboard, and will not be available to students until approximately one week prior to the beginning of the semester. Preview the class web site once the class is available to you. Make sure that you can access the site **before** our orientation. Experience has shown us that students who wait until after the class has started to try to access the site leave themselves no time for solving any possible technical incompatibilities. They quickly fall behind and have to be dropped from the class.

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### **What is the schedule for readings and homework?**

The course syllabus gives the schedule for all readings and assignments. Please note that all due dates are FIRM, with assignments due by midnight of the specified day.

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### **What about e-mail communication with the instructor?**

Generally, we will communicate via Blackboard email. While class is in session the instructor will try to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours (assuming there are no technical malfunctions). Instructor's other e-mail address, [sandra\\_rowland@cuesta.edu](mailto:sandra_rowland@cuesta.edu), will be used until Blackboard opens for the semester and during the semester when a student is having trouble accessing Blackboard or using a Blackboard tool.

### **What is the grading policy?**

Students earn a final course grade based on the student's total score of points from all class assignments, quiz, and final. Grading is as follows:

A = 90-100 pts.

B = 80-89 pts.

C = 70-79 pts.

D = 60-69 pts.

F = 50-59 pts.

Please read the official campus policy on academic honesty.

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### **How do I withdraw from class?**

It is the responsibility of the student to complete a drop slip before the drop date in order to withdraw from the class. Please see the official campus policy on [withdrawing from a class](#).

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### **What tools do I need?**

You will need a modern computer with reliable Internet access and a current e-mail account that is accessible to you at least three times a week. It is up to each student to make their own arrangements to have these tools available before beginning the class. The Cuesta SLO campus library has over 60 Internet computers located in the High Tech

Center lab that are available on a walk-in basis for students; Cuesta North County campus library has 27 computers for student use.

You should be **very comfortable** using the web and e-mail. These will be the main methods of delivering information and communicating during the class. These tools replace the in-person lectures and class meetings of a traditional course. E-mail, submitting assignments in Blackboard and participating in Blackboard Discussions will be required.

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### **What software do I need?**

**Browser:** Either Netscape, version 7.0 or later, or Internet Explorer, version 5.0 or later. Firefox works fine as well. The newer the version, the better. Some students may need to re-adjust their browser preferences for security and privacy in order to access the course website, listserv, and other tools. AOL's browser is not recommended and may be incompatible with some tools used in the class.

**Word Processing:** Any recent version (2 years old or newer) of Microsoft Word, the standard word processing software, is needed for composing your assignments (for this class, do not use Notepad or Wordpad to compose; these are accessories only not full word processing programs). Non-standard software such as WordPerfect or Claris Works is not acceptable. You will need to save the files in Rich Text Format (.rtf) in order to attach it to e-mail and send it to the instructor or post it in Blackboard.

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### **Is there a required textbook to buy?**

The required text is: *Libraries in the Information Age: An Introduction and Career Exploration*, 2nd edition, c. 2009, by Denise K. Fourie and David R. Dowell. You may purchase the textbook through our campus bookstore, which will be open on the day of Orientation. <http://bookstore.cuesta.org/> The text is also available for purchase through online bookstores.

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### **Can you give me any tips on distance education?**

For an overview of distance education and the skills needed for student success in this new environment, see this link at Cuesta's site: <http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/> Especially helpful is the section called "[Distance Education is for Whom?](#)"

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### **How do I log in to Blackboard?**

All Cuesta Blackboard sites will be open to students approximately one week prior to opening of the semester. You will find Blackboard under the Student tab in MyCuesta. Look toward the bottom of the center column under the heading, "Prepare for Classes." Your user name is the same as your MyCuesta log-in: `firstname_lastname`. Use

STUDENT as your password the first time you access your Blackboard account and then change it to the password of your choice. One Blackboard log-in will take you to all the Blackboard courses you are currently enrolled in. Please take time to thoroughly review the course web site before our Orientation and come prepared with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

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URL address for this page is: <http://library.cuesta.edu/online/Libt101.htm>