

Adolescent Literature (LIBT 118)

Welcome Page

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Hello Students:

Welcome to Cuesta College's Library/Information Technology Program. Both our Library/Information Technology certificate and A.S. degree are designed to prepare individuals for employment as a paraprofessional in a public, school, academic, special library or information center.

This is the Welcome Page for the distance education course Library/Information Technology 118, **Adolescent Literature: Connecting Young Adults to Literature and Libraries**, Spring 2010. The course will include electronic resources, youth programming, teenage trends and popular culture as well as collection development, multiculturalism and censorship issues. It will give library technicians and teachers tools they need to work with young adults in the information age.

Online courses are convenient but they do require a great deal of self-motivation. It is the student's responsibility to complete the reading and written assignments on time and to participate in class discussions. There are no mandatory on campus meetings for this class. However, each student in this class will need to make in-person use of a public, college or university library near their home in order to complete several key class assignments. If you have questions regarding the course, feel free to email me at ejagger@cuesta.edu. I'll make every effort to get back to you within 48 hours during the semester, and will check email occasionally over the break.

The following is important information that will answer some of your questions about how the class will operate.

Class Requirements

You will need the textbook:

Gorman, Michele and Tricia Suellentrop. **Connecting Young Adults and Libraries**. 4th Ed. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc. 2009.
ISBN: 978-1555706654 or 1555706654

Additional required reading in the course will include:

Cormier, Robert. **The Chocolate War**. 1974 (paperback)

Winnick, Judd. **Pedro and Me**. 2000.

Yang, Gene Luen. **American Born Chinese**. 2001 (paperback)

These are all paperbacks and are available through online book vendors, as well as through our campus bookstore, <http://bookstore.cuesta.edu/> in early January. The three fiction books are often available through public libraries.

Be advised that some of the required materials may contain explicit language or situations that might be offensive to some people.

You will also need to:

- Make sure you have the required skills and technology you'll need to be successful in this course, as listed below.
- Print out and review the class syllabus when it becomes available through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.cuesta.edu>) approximately January 14th.
- Please note that all due dates are FIRM, with assignments due by midnight of the specified day, unless otherwise indicated. Assignments cannot be made up.

Computer Requirements

You should be very comfortable using the web, downloading and attaching files and using e-mail. You will need a modern computer with reliable Internet access 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 that are available on a walk-in basis for students; Cuesta North County campus library also has computers with Internet access.

The following equipment and software are required for this class:

- Access to the World Wide Web - a broadband connection (DSL or cable) is preferred.
- A modern computer running Vista, XP, or Mac OS 10.5.
- Web browsers: such as Microsoft Internet Explorer 7, Apple Safari 3 or 4, or Firefox. All of these browsers can be downloaded free.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader plug in. This is a free plug in that enables you to read the course readings. If you do not already have this plug in, you can download it at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>
- Word processing software capable of saving files in rich text format (.rtf files). *Word* or *WordPerfect* are among the programs that can do this.
- Basic computer experience, such as uploading files, using email, and navigating the World Wide Web.

Course Logon Information

For this course, we will use the Blackboard course management system. The course will be available several days before classes begin. There will be a short assignment that must be completed by January 22nd.

To enter the course, use one of the above browsers to go to <http://blackboard.cuesta.edu>. To log on to Blackboard, your user name is the same as your MyCuesta login, and your initial password is STUDENT (all capital letters). So, Chris Cougar would log on as chris_cougar, and use the password STUDENT. You will be prompted to change your password – be sure to remember what you change it to.

For help with WebCT/Blackboard issues, contact Lee McCrea in the High Tech Lab at lmccrea@cuesta.edu

Helpful Hints

If this is the first online course that you have taken, and you feel that you may not have the necessary computer skills to succeed, you might consider taking DIST 101. DIST 101 is a half unit, 3-week course that will introduce you to some of the basic technologies that are used in online courses. This course will be held the first few weeks of the Spring 2010 semester.

If you are a student with a verified disability, please notify the instructor of your needs for accommodations as soon as possible. Authorized accommodations and alternative media will be provided as appropriate.

If you have any other questions about the course, feel free to email me.

Looking forward to working with you this semester,

Ellen Jagger, Instructor
ejagger@cuesta.edu
Cuesta College
Spring 2010