

Fall 2007

PUENTE

Syllabus

These pages offer you a guide to success in Phase 1 of MiraCosta College's Puente Program.



Welcome to the Puente Familia!

Our Mission: To increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as leaders and mentors to succeeding generations.

One of the most important things you will learn from the Puente program over the next ten months is the importance of connecting yourself to others. You have already done this in your life in many ways. You are connected to your family and friends and to various organizations--churches, teams, clubs, etc.--that you have joined over the years. When you come to college, however, you have to build a new set of relationships, finding new people who share your goals and can help you

achieve your dreams.

We help you make those connections through your Puente familia -- which refers both to the small group of students you will work with in your Puente classes and to the larger group of mentors and other MiraCostans who want to support you and the Puente program. Let your Puente familia help you achieve your dreams.

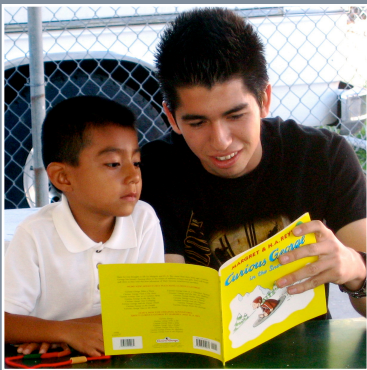
So welcome to nuestra familia!



The Puente Team

- **Freddy Ramirez**, Counselor
(760) 757-2121 ext.
- **Jim Sullivan**, English Instructor
(760) 757-2121 ext. 6303

MENTORING!



Receiving and Giving Support

In MiraCosta's Puente Program, Mentoring is a two-way street. Puente students receive guidance from college educated professionals and community members. But those same students also have opportunities to mentor others through our Service Learning Program.

Puente Mentors help negotiate the challenges of college.

A mentor is someone who can help guide a student through a process, someone who serves as an example for students to follow; as a holder of vital information who is willing to share it; and most importantly, as an attentive listener who can assess the needs of the student and help secure the resources needed to meet such needs.

We are fortunate to have a talented and committed familia of mentors who believe in you and the commitment you have made to your education.

To help you come to know your mentor, Puente sets up a series of activities for you and your mentor to participate in together.

September:

- In late September, students write letters or introduction to their mentors

October

- On October 16 from 9-11 A.M. in Aztlan A & B, students and mentors attend a mentor program breakfast. Students and mentors meet and complete a reflection activity together.
- Students and mentors set a date for students to interview their mentors.

November

- Students complete interview of their mentors by November 5.
- Students compose a mentor profile designed to share the perspectives and experiences of their mentors with their classmates and other Puente mentors.

December

- Students visit with their mentors one last time for the semester and share the profiles they have written with their mentors (students and mentors should schedule this visit on their own).



The Puente Motivational Conference: November 3

On November 3rd MiraCosta Puente students will gather on campus, jump into college provided vans, and drive up the 5 freeway to spend a day on the campus of UC Irvine.

There, MiraCosta's group will join hundreds of other Puentistas from community colleges all over Southern California for a day of motivational speakers, workshops, tours of campus facilities, and fun.

Past workshops have included topics ranging from Latino art and poetry to financial aid and applying to four-year colleges as a transfer student.

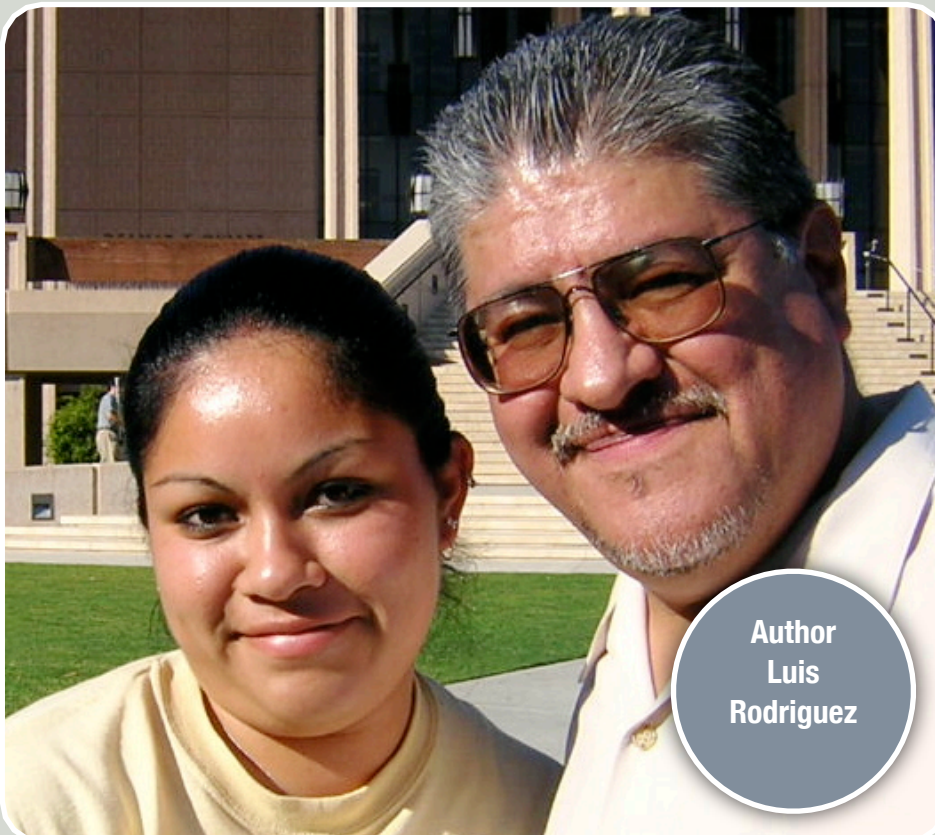
Speakers have included college administrators, Puente alumni, and Latino cultural and political

leaders.

Be sure to arrange your schedule in advance so that you can attend this event and enjoy representing your program while learning about a great university with a growing national reputation.

Be sure to ask Freddy to perform his special "I am so motivated to be a Puentista dance." Last year, this Justin Timberlake-like extravaganza caused a near riot at UC Riverside. Under no circumstance is Jim to be permitted to dance. Trust us on this one!

We leave MiraCosta at 7 AM on November 3rd and return by 5 P.M. Puente provides lunch, free transportation, and even a free Miracosta Puente t-shirt.



Author
Luis
Rodriguez

PUENTE!



Scenes from Previous Conferences

Puente students hear motivational speakers, represent their programs (our t-shirts feature the art of Puente Mentor and MiraCosta Faculty member Jose Jara), and tour the host campus. Spending a day together on a college campus, helps Puentistas come together as their own community and make long term friendships with their classmates.


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Office: Oceanside Campus Building 3300

Class Goal

To assist students develop effective academic and personal strategies, techniques, and skills for success in college and in life.

Course Overview

In this course, the student will engage in individual and group activities for the purpose of conducting self-evaluations that will be used to identify areas where personal and academic improvement is needed. The student will have an opportunity to develop new skills, techniques and college success strategies and apply them to expand their knowledge and potential for college and life success. This course emphasizes a number of experiential and writing activities as vehicles for self-discovery and personal growth.

Text Book

On Course, 4th Edition.
Dr. Skip Downing, Author.

Course Main Objectives

Students completing this course will achieve the following objectives:

- Understand own learning style and develop techniques necessary to become an effective learner
- Apply the principles of time management and develop attainable/realistic short and long term plans
- Understand the career development process and develop related and relevant skills
- Develop applicable strategies to improve recall and practice memory exercises
- Improve reading, note taking, and test taking skills
- Understand the meaning of multiculturalism and diversity recognizing socioeconomic, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and age differences and their impact on student life and academic performance
- Practice techniques and participate in exercises to develop critical and creative thinking skills
- Understand the different phases in the writing process and their importance in creative and critical writing

- Develop effective communication and active listening skills that will enhance the student's ability to improve self esteem, relationships, and assertiveness
- Understand the importance of health and wellness and their physiological, psychological, and sociological impact on the student's personal and academic life
- Understand the impact and learn how to make effective use of student support and academic support services (counseling, career services, financial aid, EOPS, DSPS, tutoring, library, and student activities)

Office Hour

I will be available to meet with you before or immediately after class. I will also be available by appointment. Call 795-6670 to schedule an appointment.



Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory since a great deal of learning will take place in the classroom through participation in individual and group activities. Points will be awarded or taken away due to attendance as follows:

- 0 absences = +20 points
- 1 absence = +10 points
- 2 absences = 0 points
- 3 absences = -10 points
- 4 absences = -20 points

More than 4 absences are not allowed unless there is a verifiable emergency. Students with more than 4 absences may be dropped or may receive a failing grade.

DO NOT BE LATE FOR CLASS

I consider it a disruption and you will lose between 5 and 10 points each time you are late.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

NO MAKE UP QUIZES WILL BE ALLOWED.

MID-TERM OR FINAL EXAM MAKE UP WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IN A VERIFIABLE EMERGENCY SITUATION

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to follow the MiraCosta College Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, academic honesty is expected and cheating on tests, quizzes, and/or assignments will result in a failing grade or dismissal from class.

Grade Scale

A = 450-500 Pts.

B = 400-449 Pts.

C = 350-399 Pts.

D = 300-349 Pts.

F = < 300 Pts.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
Midterm Exam	50
Final Exam (Individual Presentation)	50
In Class Exercises (10 @ 5 pts. each)	50
Quizzes (5 @10 pts. Each)	50
Journal Entries (20 @ 5 pts. Each)	100
Lifeline presentation	25
Group presentation (Education/Career Plan)	25
The Latino Culture Essay	25
Personal Statement (Autobiography)	25
Annotated Bibliography	25
Mentor Letter	25
Education Plan	25
Class Participation	25



Tips for Success

Be Here Now

Attend every class on time, pay attention, and take notes. Avoid distractions by sitting in the front of the classroom.

Participate Actively

Come prepared for class having read the text book as instructed. Engage in class discussions and take risks by contributing your opinion; this is known as "Risk for the Sake of Learning."

Ask Meaningful Questions

Any time a question pops in your mind, be sure to ask for clarification or write your question down for later discussion. By asking questions, you'll stay engaged and you will help yourself and your classmates.

Submit all assignments on time.


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Office: Oceanside Campus Building 3615

Course Objectives

The reading and writing skills you will develop in this course will enrich your personal, work, and academic life and prepare you to succeed in English 100, the next step on your quest to attend a four-year college or university.

By the end of the semester, successful students will have learned to do the following:

1) To think critically and creatively by generating ideas, identifying relationships, solving problems, and drawing conclusions from text and other resources.

2) To read critically by identifying the purpose, audience, method, and examples in arguments.

3) To develop formal essays through the writing process (generating ideas, drafting, revising, and editing) that demonstrate your understanding of purpose and audience.

4) To gather, evaluate, organize, and interpret information from a variety of researched sources and to correctly incorporate that research into your own arguments and essays through quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, and correctly citing those

sources.

5) To understand, identify, and apply the fundamental grammatical principles and conventions of professional and academic English in the United States.

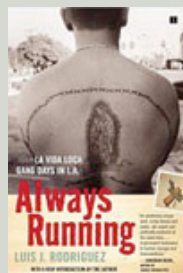
6) To apply library research techniques, time management, listening and speaking skills, and the ability to work cooperatively with others to academic, workplace, and community settings.

Together, we will evaluate your progress toward achieving the course objectives in two ways.

1) First, each student must earn 85% of all class preparation and participating points assigned during the semester (more on this below).

2) Second, you must complete at a passing level, each of the four major writing assignments and the final exam.

Text Books



Rodriguez, Luis. *Always Running. . Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* New York: Touchstone, 1993.



•Serros, Michelle. *Chicana Falsa.* New York: Riverhead Books, 1993.

Class Participation

Because you should invest twelve (12) hours each week in this class, I assign twelve class participation and preparation points each week:

- 4 pts for class
- 4 points for writing assignments
- 2 points for discussion cards
- 2 points for reading quizzes and or conferences with Jim

I award bonus participation and preparation points for attending learning communities, early morning study halls, or one-to-one meetings with tutors or counselors.

Assessment

Major Assignments

Unless otherwise noted, papers have a 1000 word minimum length.

- ❑ **Paper #1: Games Essay**
- ❑ **Paper #2: Mentor Project** (a two-part assignment including a letter of introduction to your mentor and a mentor profile).
- ❑ **Paper #3: Who Am I Essay** (examining the key elements of your life experiences and background).
- ❑ **Paper #4: They Say / I Say Academic Argument Essay** based on answers to our guiding questions: What cultural forces shape the lives of young Latinos? And how do Latinos respond to these cultural forces in their lives?
- ❑ **Final Exam:** A formal presentation of your Latino Culture Essay to the class and your instructors.

Assignment Submissions

- ❑ Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed on the class calendar. Any work turned in after the beginning of class on the due date receives a 10% penalty for each day that the work is late. However, late work submitted by prior agreement with the instructor is not penalized.
- ❑ I will not accept or grade a final draft unless I have received all previous drafts for that assignment.
- ❑ Always bring **one** hard copy of all assignments to class and send a back up copy to Blackboard's digital drop box.

Conferences

I require each student to participate in a 20-30 minute conference with me every two weeks. During these conferences, I will give you feedback on your work and we will discuss any writing concerns you have.

Attendance Is the Key

Attendance in class is key to your personal success and to the class as a whole. If you miss class, I want to make sure you have learned as much as possible by following up with your classmates and carefully completing all course assignments. Therefore, students who miss class must send me an email summary of what we covered in class and what we were to have read for that day in class. (The course web site and your family members should provide you with the information you need about what we covered in class.) Students who miss more than three class sessions or the equivalent must complete a 400 word reading analysis essay for each absence beyond the third. Late and absent students lose participation points for class time missed.

The Tutoring and Academic Support Center

is part of the Puente familia. This amazing campus resource provides the Puente program with an in-class tutor who will also facilitate learning communities specifically for Puente every Thursday afternoon from 11 AM to 12 Noon.



You can also find free peer tutoring in any subject at the HUB. For more information, call (760) 944-4449 ext 7748. I urge you to take advantage of this valuable resource. Build a relationship with a tutor early in the semester, and do not hesitate to contact me if I can support your work with the Tutoring and Academic Support Center in any way.

Disability Policy

A student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact one of the following: your instructor; the Disabled Students Program & Services Office (Connie Wilbur at 760-433-1401, ext. 6658); or the Office of the ADA Coordinator (Carol Rodriguez at 760-433-1401, ext. 6866).

Office Hours

M/W 12-1 and Tu/Thu 11-12

Study Hall: I am also available from 8-8:50 every Tuesday and Thursday in room 4612 in our Puente study hall.