Course Description and Goals:
Welcome to the Puente Program at College of San Mateo and CRER 128: Puente Foundation for College Success. Along with English Instructor Jon Kitamura, my goal is to help you succeed in all of your courses at CSM as well as assist you with your transfer goals. As a Puente student, you will be participating in a year-long program that blends English, academic counseling and personal development, and mentorship, three key components that have proven to be successful for thousands of entering college students state-wide. While Puente focuses specifically on the Chicano/Latino experience, it is open to everyone interested who meets the placement test criteria for English Composition.

CRER 128: Puente Foundation for College Success is part of the Puente Project and must be taken concurrently with ENGL 838. CRER 128 is designed to assist CSM Puente students in developing the skills and tools critical to succeed in college. Through a holistic and comprehensive approach, the course will consist of college orientation, student success strategies, cultural identity and personal development as a foundation for college success. Puente students will have the opportunity to engage collaboratively and promote team building while building their leadership skills. Topics covered will include educational planning, self-assessment, decision making, student success strategies, motivation, cultural identity, study skills, learning styles, goal setting and financial aid. Students will receive an introduction to library research and complete a research project. CRER 128 will support the degree/transfer attainment of Puente students by establishing a sense of belonging, enhancing student engagement and self-reflection as well as deepening the understanding of the college system and expectations. In addition, consideration of psychological, sociological and physiological components that attribute to personal and academic success will be explored. This course will require participation in off-campus field trips.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:
Through participation in exercises, group work, discussions, reflections, presentations and other assignments, students will:

- Identify critical information and skills needed in successful college planning
- Be able to identify CSM academic policies and procedures
- Identify specific CSM programs and services that will enhance academic success
- Explore and identify personal learning styles
- Develop a Student Educational Plan
- Demonstrate knowledge of effective time management skills by creating a weekly schedule
- Explore Latino Cultural Identity and influences in education
Required Materials:
◊ 3 Ring Binder   ◊ Spiral Notebook
◊ Academic Planner   ◊ Current CSM Catalog

Course Requirements/Assignments:
In addition to consistent attendance, active and appropriate participation, and daily note-taking the following will be required of all CRER 128 students:

1. Journals..........................................................................................................................90 points
   There will be 9 written journals at 10 points each
   Journal prompts will be given at end of class
2. Homework......................................................................................................................100 points
   There will be 10 homework assignments at 10 points each
3. Presentations................................................................................................................100 points
   There will be 2 presentations at 50 points each
4. Midterms.......................................................................................................................100 points
   There will be 2 midterms at 50 points each
5. Final Exam....................................................................................................................100 points
6. Participation..................................................................................................................10 points

Total: 500 points

Grading Policy:
Everyone will begin with an A grade in CRER 128. Maintaining the “A grade” will be dependent on the timely completion of the course requirements listed above and attendance.

A= 450-500 points   D= 300-349 points
B= 400-449 points   F= 0-299 points
C= 350-399 points

Attendance Policy:
Consistent attendance, as well as arriving to class on-time, are highly required for the successful understanding and completion of any college course. However, if “life happens” and inevitable things do come up, you are expected to inform me via email or phone in advance if possible, but definitely the day of the actual missed class. It will be your responsibility to gather the missed handouts, cover the missed topic, and submit the due assignments. After 3 absences, a meeting with instructor will be scheduled and you could be at risk of being dropped from the course. Keep in mind, however, that after FIVE absences, excused or not, you will most likely receive a No Credit grade for the course

Tardy/Late Policy:
Being on time is just as important as your attendance. Therefore, being late 3 times will be counted as one absence. Lateness is coming in at any point once class has begun, specifically, anytime after 11:10 a.m.

Homework Policy:
Keeping with the reality of “life happens”, you will each receive 1 No Questions Asked (NQA) Coupon. This NQA coupon is valid for 1 homework assignment only. At your choosing, you may submit your NQA coupon in place of one homework assignment and still receive full credit for that homework assignment. Lost NQA coupons will not be replaced, therefore keep it in a safe place!! If you do not use your NQA coupon and submit all of your homework assignments, you will receive 10 extra credit points by submitting your unused NQA Coupon.
What about late homework or assignments? Late assignments will be accepted only on the next class meeting for a maximum of half credit. After this time, the assignment will not be accepted and you will receive 0 credit for the missed assignment.

PUENTE Required Activities:
As part of the Puente program, we will be participating in events outside of class. As a Puente student, your participation is mandatory. Specifically for the Fall ’12 semester, we will be participating in the following:

- Friday  September 6th  Ropes course/community building (all day)
- Saturday  October 12th  Transfer Motivational Conference at Cal State Sonoma (all day)
- Saturday  November 2nd  Dia de los Muertos Festival, Fruitvale Oakland (all day)
- Thursday  November 21st  Noche de Familia (evening)

We advise that you put these dates in your calendar ASAP for planning purposes!!!

Remember that in addition to me, your Puente English Instructor, Jon Kitamura, is available to you for extra help and to answer questions. We will be working collaboratively throughout the year to best support you as Puentistas. Following is Jon’s contact information:

Instructor: Jon Kitamura  
Office: Building 15, Room 103  
Phone: (650) 574-6554  
E-mail: kitamuraj@smccd.edu

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