Instructor Name: Rita Sperry
Office Location: FC 117
Office Phone: 825-3158
Office Hours: MW 12:00-2:00pm
Email Address: rita.sperry@tamucc.edu
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RitaSperry/Home

Course Information: UCCP 1101.515  MW 10:00-10:50am  CCH 114

Course Description
UCCP 1101, First-Year Seminar I, is an important part of Triad M. This first-year learning community—especially the seminar—is designed to help you achieve success, academically and socially, as you make the transition from high school to the university.

This seminar will challenge you to engage in significant learning in college-level intellectual work. You will develop your skills to work productively in small groups. To develop your critical thinking skills and your information literacy, you will learn how to examine problems and questions from multiple perspectives.

Course Objectives
The primary objectives of First Year Seminar are for students to:

- Explore the interconnections among the Triad/Tetrad courses;
- Develop critical thinking skills and significant learning;
- Clarify personal values, goals, and strengths;
- And develop the ability to learn through study, discussion, writing, cooperation, and collaboration

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will apply interdisciplinary knowledge to address and analyze real-world issues
- Students will interpret and evaluate various research materials and/or perspectives

Evaluation

PORTFOLIOS – 30%
Two portfolios, each worth 15% of your course grade, will be due throughout the semester. The midterm portfolio will be due on Thursday, October 13, while the final portfolio will be due during the final exam period on December 9th or 14th. See the online portfolio descriptions for more information.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%
It is vital that you attend each and every class. There is nothing that we will do in here that is not important to your success in this triad. To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (daily writings, quizzes, group tasks) every time we meet. However, you are allowed two absences. Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES – 25%
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to your other courses in the learning community. To reward and encourage success on learning community assignments and projects, many will also count for credit in your First-Year Seminar course. We may also do small activities and assignments in Seminar to support the completion of – or reflection over – various assignments in the learning community.
FIRST-YEAR CELEBRATION – 15%

All learning community students will participate in First-Year Celebration (FYC) at the end of the Fall 2011 semester. FYC is an opportunity for students to share their academic work with the campus community. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 31</td>
<td>Last day to register/add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 5</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 4</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 6</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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Online Schedule

A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: [http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RitaSperry/Fall2011ClassPlans](http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RitaSperry/Fall2011ClassPlans)

Late Work

Any major assignment (such as a portfolio) will be accepted late, at a penalty of a half a letter grade per day. Please contact me if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss a due date. There will be no make-ups for missed daily grades.

Electronic Device Policy

Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Laptops will be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Academic Honesty

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possessions of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism.

Notice to Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 4th** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Grade Appeal Process

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.