Instructor Name: Romeo Garcia
Office Location: FC 124
Office Hours: Friday 8 a.m.-10 a.m.
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Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RomeoGarcia/Home

Course Information: UCCP 1101.245 M/W 8 a.m.-8:50 a.m. OCNR 130

Course Description
UCCP 1101, First-Year Seminar I, is an important part of Triad E. 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

WORKING FOLDER AND PORTFOLIOS – 30 points
The “working” folder or “in-process” folder for Triad E will include progress and production—“evidence”—within the Triad E community. The work/assignments you collect will be representative of the Triad as a whole. Students are expected to designate labels and/or place headers for each respective class. This folder will assist in the construction of the Triad E portfolio at the end of the semester. Students will meet both with their seminar and composition instructor prior and/or during mid-terms to review the folder. The date is set for the week of October 5, 2012 and is worth 10 points.

The Triad E portfolio is a collation of “evidence” completed throughout the semester. What you turn is the final conclusion to your working folder. You will pick, choose, and reflect off of the evidence. The date is set for the week of December 3, 2012 and is worth 20 points.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30 points
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. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and to compose thoughtful short assignments. In addition, individual and group exercises will be assigned each class meeting through which I will evaluate your performance and engagement.
To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (daily writings, quizzes, group tasks) every time we meet. You are allowed three absences. Use them well. After the third absence, any extra absences will affect your grade. Simply being present, however, will not earn you full points for the day. I will take into account participation, preparedness, and promptness when assigning daily participation grades. I reserve the right to deduct daily or average points from students who consistently lack engagement or disregard classroom rules.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES – 30 points
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. More information will be provided in the form of discussion, but integrated activities will consist of various assignments that make connections between courses within the triad community.

FIRST-YEAR CELEBRATION – 10 points
All Triad E learning community students will participate in First-Year Celebration (FYC) at the end of the Fall 2012 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. FYC is scheduled to take place beginning November 28, 2012.

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RomeoGarcia/Home

Late Work
Any major assignment (such as a portfolio) will be accepted late at a penalty. Please contact me in advance if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss a major due date. There will be no make-ups for missed daily grades.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
• 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 possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in (0).
• Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. This includes but is not limited to:
  o Claiming someone else’s work as your own,
  o Downloading, purchasing, or “borrowing” pre-written essays off the internet or from friends and using them as your own,
  o Using resource materials without correct citation, (i.e. APA or MLA)
  o Using the organization or language of a source without using quotation marks and/or proper citation.
• When in doubt, visit with me or a consultant in the Writing Center for help on how to use sources correctly and effectively within your paper.
• Penalties for plagiarism (from An Islander’s Guide to Writing): No plagiarized paper will be accepted for credit in any First-Year Writing Program course at TAMUCC. This includes partially plagiarized papers. A plagiarized paper will receive an “F” grade. If the instructor feels that the plagiarism was unintentional, he or she may ask the student to rewrite the paper for credit. Instructors who suspect that a student has plagiarized will submit a letter explaining the reasons for their suspicions and a copy of the student’s paper to the Coordinator of the FYWP, who will keep them on file. All cases of suspected plagiarism that occur in the FYWP courses will be reviewed by the Coordinator. Any student who is suspected of plagiarism will have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Coordinator of the FYWP. Repeat offenders may be dismissed from the University, per the Student Code of Conduct.

Classroom/Professional Behavior (Professionalism and Class Expectations)
• Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instruction program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to
disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- As a student of the university community there are general rules for acceptable college-level conduct. For my course, here are mine:
  - Be punctual: You cannot learn if you are not in class
  - Come to class prepared: Coming to class is a choice. Therefore, you need to come prepared with all assigned readings, homework, and mind (your input is valuable).
  - Be respectful: I will not tolerate disrespectfulness. Respect your peers values and opinions. You will be asked to leave if you are not respectful.
  - Communication: I cannot read your mind, know what is going on in your life, or acknowledge that you are struggling with classroom concepts/assignments if you do not communicate with me. I am here to help you.
  - Meet deadlines: As a student, it is your responsibility to turn in assignments according to their designated time and date. I have posted all due dates for major assignments to avoid confusion.

Electronic Devices

- Our class is held in a computer lab, so you will have full access to the internet and any other online resources you will need during our class meetings.
- Computers: During class time, do not use the computer (either in the lab or your own laptop) to login to Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, play games, chat, check your e-mail, or anything else personal and not related to class work. Inappropriate use of technology may result in me asking you to leave class, resulting in an absence for the day.
- Cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc.: A ringing cell phone during class time is extremely disrespectful and disruptive. Please disable all electronic devices BEFORE class begins – whether it be switched off, silenced, or switched to vibrate mode. Do not text or answer phone calls during class. If it is necessary for you to take a call during class on a particular day, come and speak to me before class and I will excuse you as needed. If I see you with your cell phone out during class, I will ask you to leave class, resulting in an absence for the day.

Grading

- There is a 24 hour waiting period before I will discuss a major assignment. This allows you to think about your grade and reflect on your approach. The 24 hours allows you then to address rationally any questions you may have pertaining to the grade received.
- Please read the rubric and assignment description before turning in any assignments.

Emails

- Always type in your course and section number, along with providing your full name in emails. Please use correct spelling, sentence structure, and address the email formally.
- Islander Email Accounts are very important. They will serve as my primary means of correspondence with you. Throughout the semester, I will be sending emails sharing important information relating to the learning community and I want to ensure that you receive this information.
- No assignments related to the Triad E community will be accepted over EMAIL! No Exceptions!

Respect for Diversity

- We are the most diverse campus, in terms of self-disclosed ethnic identity, in the Texas A&M system. This means that we are all meeting and working with people who are different from ourselves in terms of their identities: whether that is defined by their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and/or religion. Respecting and accepting differences are vital to your success in this class, on this campus, as a future professional, and in the global community.

Rights, Responsibilities, and Civil Discourse

- In this course we will engage in active learning including frequent group activities and interactions. We will be exploring real world topics that may at times result in contentious discussions as we meet the objectives of the course. To meet these many significant learning objectives, class dialogue that no one individual dominates the
discussion and that the diverse opinions of others can be respected. Students are expected to read and follow the University Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and state and local laws.

**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 2nd) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Students with Disabilities and Veterans**
- 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 CCH 116 and 119.
- 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.

**Academic Advising**
- The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**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.

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**Important Dates**
- **Wednesday, August 29** Last day to register/add a class
- **Monday, September 3** Labor Day Holiday
- **Friday, November 2** Last day to drop a class
- **November 22-23** Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Tuesday, December 4** Last day of classes