Seminar Instructor: Dawn (Dowell) Boeck
Office: FC 124
Email: dawn.boeck@tamucc.edu
Webpage: http://dawndowellboeck.pbworks.com
Office Hours: M, W, F 8:00-8:50, 11:00-11:50, and by appointment
WC Website: http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php

Course Information: UCCP 1101. 463 T/TR 8:00-8:50

Course Description
UCCP 1101, First Year Seminar I, is an important part of Triad K. 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 the 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 and Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Archive</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Community Assignments</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Significance Essay #2</td>
<td>F 11/9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Portfolio</td>
<td>T 11/27</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance – 15%
It is vital that you attend each and every class meeting. There is nothing that we will do in this class that is not important to your success in Triad K. To encourage attendance, I will be recording attendance for each class meeting using a sign-in sheet during the first 15 minutes of class. You are allowed two absences. After the second absence, any extra absences will negatively affect your attendance grade.

The official attendance policy for Triad K is as follows:
You will be allowed TWO absences without penalty this semester. This policy is designed to provide for any possible family emergency, medical appointment, illness, or other unforeseen, unavoidable conflicts. Use these absences wisely, as there will be no excused absences beyond this allowance. However, the instructor does reserve the right to consider individual circumstances in assessing class attendance.

Participation – 15%
Your participation in class will be assessed based on your overall preparation for class meetings as well as your direct participation in class through group activities, discussions, and writings. Simply being present will not earn you full points for the day. As a student, you are expected to contribute to class discussions and to compose thoughtful in-class assignments. I reserve the right to award daily or average points to students who continually surpass classroom expectations. I also reserve the right to deduct daily or average points from students who consistently lack engagement or disregard course expectations.

Learning Community Assignments – 20%
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to your other courses in Triad K. To reward and encourage success on learning community assignments and projects, many will also count for credit in Seminar. The integrated activities for Triad K include will include the Historical Significance Essays, Primary Source Activities, and various activities related to your work in large lecture.

Student Archive and Reflections – 15%
Throughout the semester, your Triad K instructors will ask you to collect and organize the work you complete in each of your Triad courses. The Student Archive, a folder or binder, will be a place for you to organize and reflect on the work you complete throughout the semester. You will organize your documents using a Finding Guide, reflect on them through guided in-class writings, and discuss their contents in conferences with your instructors. See the Student Archive description online for more information.

Student Portfolio – 20%
This portfolio, submitted at the end of the semester will require you to look back on the work you have completed throughout the semester in Triad K and select evidence of your learning process. The Student Portfolio is due T October 27 and it is a shared assignment between all Triad K courses.

Historical Significance Essay #2 – 15%
Triad K students who are enrolled in a freestanding seminar course (you!) will complete a Historical Significance Essay that is due F 11/9. For more information, see the Historical Significance Essay #2 assignment description online.
Professionalism & Class Expectations
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of other students in order to 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 instructional program may be considered a breach of the code and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applied to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussions groups, field trips, etc.

As a member of the university community, you may or may not be familiar with the general rules for acceptable college-level conduct. All instructors have their own classroom preferences and expectations, which will vary from course to course. Here are mine:

- **BE PUNCTUAL.** One of the key factors of student success in college is class attendance. Attendance will be recorded for each class meeting. (See attendance policy in Evaluation and Grade Distribution section above.)
- **COME TO CLASS PREPARED.** Your input is valuable. Read all assigned readings, complete all assigned work, and come to class prepared to write and talk about the day’s topics, readings, and writings.
- **BE RESPECTFUL:** Treat your peers and me with respect, even if our worldviews, values, and opinions are wildly different from yours. Please be tolerant and respectful of others.
- **COMMUNICATE WITH ME.** If there is something going on in your life that is affecting your work, please let me know as soon as possible. If you do not understand a concept or assignment, or if you are having trouble completing an assignment, please let me know so I can work with you to help you.
- **MEET DEADLINES.** It is your responsibility to turn in all of your assignments at the designated time and date.

Late Work
I will not accept late in-class assignments. These daily assignments are directly related to your participation and attendance in class. Major assignments will not be accepted late without an extension granted in writing at least 24 hours before the due date. Due dates are already posted – please note them in your calendar and plan ahead.

Electronic Device Policy
Please respect my wishes to create a peaceful and productive learning environment:

- Refrain from the use of electronic devices during class.
- Switch your cell phone to silent or vibrate before class begins.
- Limit the use of your laptop to class activities.
- Exit the classroom quietly if it is necessary for you to take a phone call or message.
- Remove headphones during class unless given permission to use them.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other course you are enrolled in. However, events can and sometimes do occur that make dropping a course a necessary decision. Please consult with me (or the instructor of the course) before you decide to drop a course to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best choice, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services building (the round building) and filling out a Course Drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation in the course WILL NOT automatically results in your being dropped from the class. **Friday, November 2 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of a “W” for this semester.**
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.

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. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Student Resources

The Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) Writing Center
The consultants at the Writing Center invite any individual at TAMUCC who wants assistance or guidance with any type of writing project to come and meet with them. Throughout the semester, if I believe that your writing needs additional work or attention, I may suggest that you make an appointment with a consultant at the Writing Center. I also work at the Writing Center part time and you are welcome to make a 30-minute appointment with me during my hours there. The Writing Center is located in the Glasscock Building 112 (GSSC 112). CASA also provides tutoring in the sciences, mathematics, history, political science, psychology, and Spanish. Visit http://casa.tamucc.edu/ for more information.

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 will 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.

University Counseling Center
We all encounter stress, problems, and difficult decisions in our daily lives. Sometimes, these problems may seem overwhelming or it might be difficult to talk about certain issues with your friends or family. The University Counseling Center is available for all students enrolled at TAMUCC. Students seek counseling for a multitude of reasons and the University Counseling Center offers individual therapy, group counseling, psychiatric services, psychological testing, consultation, outreach services, alcohol and drug education and prevention programs, and personal skills training. If you are in need of counseling services or just someone to talk to, please call or visit the University Counseling center at (361) 825-2703 in the Driftwood Building. Visit http://counseling.tamucc.edu for more information.

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. Your academic advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at (361) 825-3466.