Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi  
University Core Curriculum Programs Spring 2013  
UCCP 1102.281: First-Year Seminar II (Triad F)  
“Gateways”

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Website: http://triadfseminar.weebly.com

Course Information:  
UCCP 1102.281 T/R 8 a.m.-8:50 a.m. CS 108  
UCCP 1102.280 T/R 9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m. CS 108

Course Description  
UCCP 1102, First-Year Seminar II, is an important part of Triad F. The first-year learning communities—and especially the seminars—are designed to help you achieve success, academically and socially, as you make the transition from high school to the university.

Seminar will continue to challenge you to engage in college-level intellectual work. You will develop your skills to work productively in small groups. To develop your critical thinking skills, you will learn how to examine problems and questions from multiple perspectives. You will also complete numerous activities that will require you to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from a wide range of resources.

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

• Explore the interconnections among the Triad/Dyad 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

Reflective Assignments – 30 points  
You will complete two reflective assignments this semester for seminar each worth 15% of your grade. Consider these assignments to be like your “exams.” The reflective assignments are designed to develop your metacognitive abilities. Metacognition basically means thinking about your own thinking. The more you reflect on your own experiences in college and make positive steps to improve, the better you will do. The assignments are as follows. More information will be given in class.

Mid-Semester Portfolio- (Individual assignment)- A collection of your college work and a > 2 page reflection on how you see your work as a gateway to success at TAMUCC (15%) due March 8.

Final Reflection- (Group Assignment)- Reflect on the first year college experience by writing and producing a YouTube video on the subject of “My Islander Pledge” as a team. This assignment will ask you to consider how your pledge can be used as a gateway to success (15%) due May 3.
PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30 points
Attendance is a gateway to success in this class. To learn about politics and begin your journey as an active member of a democracy (as most of us are) you must be present and prepared for class. Your knowledge and opinion is valued and appreciated at every class meeting. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester.

PEW Typology Activities – 10 points
This semester you will take a Typology Quiz to help sort you into a group based on your values, political beliefs and party affiliation. This quiz will be a gateway for many discussions and assignments throughout the semester in all of your Triad courses. You will take this quiz in the beginning and middle of the semester.

Your first PEW Typology activity will be due Thursday, January 31.
Your second PEW Typology activity will be due Thursday, April 11.

Ideology Essay – 15 points
Throughout the semester we will learn how political ideology shapes American government and politics. You will write a 2-3 page essay about how your personal political ideology serves (or does not serve) as a gateway for affecting politics in the United States. This essay will be due on Blackboard, Thursday, April 18 by 2pm. It is also counted towards your final grade in Political Science and Composition. More instructions will be given closer to the due date to fully outline the expectations of this assignment.

Poll Activity – 15 points
In Political Science, you will learn about different types of polls. To help you practice using polls as a gateway to understanding local public opinion, you will create, conduct, and analyze your own poll. In a group, you will present your results in a professional presentation on March 28.

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://triadseminar.weebly.com/tf-class-plans.html

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Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 30</td>
<td>Last day to register or add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11-15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 12</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 2</td>
<td>First-Year Research Conference</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 7</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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Course Policies

Cell Phones & Other Technology
Please turn off your cell phones (or iPods, laptops, etc.), or turn them to silent, and put them away, before class begins, out of respect for your peers and me. Also, absolutely no assignments will be accepted via email.

Late Work & Missed Assignments
Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day late. In the event of an emergency or excused absence, a student may be given additional days to complete the assignment without penalty if we discuss it and agree that additional time necessary.

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. April 12 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
Notice to 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. 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.

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://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.