Texas A&M Corpus Christi
First Year Seminar
US Government & Politics, Triad F
Syllabus UCCP 1102.282 CS 108 3:30-4:20

Spring 2013: Gateways

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Course Information: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR II
UCCP 1102.282 CS 108 3:30-4:20

Course Description
UCCP 1102, First-Year Seminar II, is an important part of Triad L. 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, and collaboration with your peers and instructor.
We will always be using technology to enhance our technological skills.
Effective communication between peers and Instructor and working in groups while collaborating about the Political Science and Government issues.

Course Materials
What to expect in Seminar class, you will be readings and information that will be accessed through Triad F and your Government Lecture and your Composition course. You will also be assigned additional reading that will be in the format of handouts, online posting, or from your textbooks. Blackboard will be used in this course, so I advise you to get familiar using blackboard and your wiki page for course information and updates. Failure to do show will have an impact on your final grade. Please check your Islander email and Blackboard every day. Please make sure that you back up your course work on a USB flash drive, icloud, send it to your email, etc.

You will need to purchase a Turning Technologies clicker or Response Ware on your smart device. Clickers are available at the bookstore of Response Ware may be purchased as an application for smart devices or web applications at devices: http://store.turningtechnologies.com with a school code TaMcc3. Clicker devices and Response Ware applications must be registered at http://webreg.turningtechnologies.com/.

Please join Triad F Facebook Page. http://www.facebook.com/groups/373621339400533

Attendance and Participation: 30%

Course Evaluation

Attendance and Participation: (30%) 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.

Reflective Assignments (30%): 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 page reflection on how your work as a gateway to success at TAMUCC 15% due March 8, 2013

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.

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

Your first PEW Typology activity is due on Thursday, 31.
Your second PEW Typology activity will be due on Thursday April 21.

Ideology Essay-15%
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 on Thursday, April 18 by 2pm. It is also counted towards your final grade in Political Science and Composition. More information will be given in closer to the due date.

Poll Activity 15%
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://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/TeresaAlaniz/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.

ABSENCES
Only two will be allowed per semester, there will result 3-point deduction off your final grade for each absence after the allotted amount of two during this course.

Emails
Please use the email address provided on this syllabus for your academic use. Please include your course number and your full name in the subject line of your email. As second semester freshmen students, please use appropriate grammar in your emails.
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.

Late Work
Any major assignment (such as a portfolio) will be accepted late, at a penalty of a half a letter grade per calendar day late. 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.

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. The instructor will permit laptops for particular activities as deemed appropriate.

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 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.

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, 2013** 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.