First Year Seminar
Psychology, Triad I, Spring 2013
Minds in Motion

Course Syllabus

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Office hours: MW 10:00-11:00; T 12:00-2:00; F 12:00-1:00 & by appointment
Class Plans: http://chawkinson.pbworks.com/w/page/62646183/Triad%20I%3A%20Minds%20in%20Motion

Courses:
FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR II – UCCP 1102.383 – OCNR 255 – 12:00-12:50
FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR II – UCCP 1102.382 – OCNR 255 – 1:00-1:50

Course Description

First Year Seminar II is a continued discovery of the skills necessary for your success as a university student taking psychology. Seminar is an integral part of your psychology learning community. You must succeed in seminar to do well in large lecture, as a significant portion of your large lecture final grade will come from seminar. Seminar is a one credit hour discussion course where you learn to communicate verbally and work collaboratively on complex and psychology topics and relate them to your role as a developing professional.

To achieve professionally you will need 4 basic things:
- Expert knowledge and critical thinking ability.
- Effective communication skills.
- The ability to get along with others and work as a team.
- An open mind to grapple with different forms of technology.

Course Theme

Minds in Motion is the theme for Triad I. Dr. Houlihan will talk throughout the semester about how, in psychology, ideas are constantly changing with new knowledge. Our minds are always interpreting ideas in different ways. In Seminar, we will consider how our own ideas are constantly shifting in regard to study behavior, majors, future careers, etc. depending where we are in our individual lives.

Seminar 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
- Develop the ability to learn through study, discussion, writing, cooperation, and collaboration

Seminar 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

Seminar Specific Learning Outcomes:
- Take personal responsibility and become a self-directed college learner.
- Understand divergent viewpoints.
- Effectively read and comprehend articles, reports, and books.
- Evaluate the accuracy of claims made in literature relating to psychology.
- Collaborate effectively as both an effective leader and follower.
- Relate the study of psychology to other ways of knowing.
- Apply psychology to your own life.
- Understand the role and purpose of different forms of literature.
Effectively use library research tools to research on psychology topics.
Communicate about psychology topics verbally, in writing, and via video presentation.
Get along with others.
Understand the role of psychology in a greater world context.

- Be able to use logical and empirical means to support primary research.
- Develop interpersonal communication skills.
- Use online learning technology effectively.
- Be successful in Triad I and in life.

Course Materials

Seminar is a discussion course that will focus on the readings and information gained in your Triad I courses. You will work with the books from Psychology and Composition. Additional readings will also be supplied to you as handouts, online postings, or from your textbooks for discussion in seminar. It is vitally important that you keep up with readings that are assigned at all times. If you do not keep up with readings it will affect your ability to participate in seminar discussions and will lower your participation grade.

It is highly recommended that you join the Triad I Facebook Group. http://www.facebook.com/groups/179688455488113/.
The Facebook group is primarily used for informal communication with your peers and instructors.

You will also need the following for seminar and other learning community courses:
- Regular computer access with Microsoft Office (available on campus).
- Islander email and Blackboard. Be sure to check both regularly.
- Ability to save your computer generated work and transfer it between school and home and among university computers (Laptop, USB Flash Drive, or internet drive).
- Positive attitude 😊

Course Evaluation

Attendance and Participation: (30%)
Attendance is the only way to keep your “mind in motion” in my class. Most of your grade is based on your participation in critical activities and discussions. To learn to connect the concepts you learn in psychology to your personal life, 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** A collection of your Observational Study Project materials and a > 2 page reflection on how your primary research has encouraged your brain to think in different ways than before you began Triad I (15%) due **Friday, March 1**.

**Final Portfolio** - For your final assignment, you will analyze your personality. In order to complete this assignment, you will take a personality quiz and have a close friend or relative take the same quiz for you. In your reflection, you will compare and contrast the results. You will also make inferences about what the differences mean for your future years at TAMUCC (15%) due **Monday, May 6**.

Media Reaction Papers: (2 x 10% = 20%)
One of the main goals of your psychology class is to help you apply psychological concepts to your real life. In order to help you learn this skill, you will analyze two pieces of media/popular culture that are directly related to a psychological concept that you learn about in Dr. Houlihan's class.

The first reaction paper is due **Friday, March 22**.
The second reaction paper is due **Friday, April 19**.
Observational Study Project: (15%) Integrated Experience
Your first assignment this semester will be an observational study. You will get into a group based on your interests in research and conduct a primary research project in which you observe a public place for human behavior. Your group will propose a possible observation scenario to be approved by your Seminar Instructor on Monday, February 11. After approval, you will find two similar academic resources that discuss a similar observation to put in your Midterm Portfolio. Next, you will conduct your primary research. You will give a professional presentation to the class on Friday, February 22 in which you analyze your results. Your Midterm Portfolio will be an individual collection of work that reflects on your work during this assignment.

First Year Research Conference Proposal (5%)
Every group in the class will write a proposal due on Monday, March 25 to request to present their Observational Study Project at the First Year Research Conference. Individual groups will decide if they want to submit their proposals for actual consideration. Acceptance and presentation at the conference will earn presenters extra credit in Triad I.

Grading Policies

Make-Up Assignments
Make-up exams and assignments will be given only if you have an excused absence which include: participation in a university-affiliated activity that requires you to miss class, a religious holiday, death or major illness in your immediate family, illness of a dependent family member, participation in legal proceedings that require your presence, injury or illness too severe to allow you to attend class, or required participation in military duties.

To be excused, you should notify me by email prior to the date of absence if possible. In cases where advance notification is not possible due to an emergency, you should provide notification by the end of the second day after the absence. You may be asked to provide documentation substantiating the reason for the absence within one week of your absence. Make assignments must be completed on or by the day we agree upon.

Late Assignments
I will not accept late in-class or homework assignments – these daily assignments are directly related to your attendance and participation in class. If there is an event that prevents you from meeting a deadline for a major assignment, you can request an extension to turn in the work late without penalty. The approval of an extension is entirely at my discretion and will depend on the reason(s) for your absence or necessity for an extension as well as your attendance and progress in the course up to that point in the semester. All extensions must be confirmed by email at least 24 hours before the due date. Due dates are already posted – please note them in your calendar and plan ahead. If you turn your work in late, ten points will be deducted from your paper grade for every day that the paper is late (unless otherwise noted on the assignment description).

Extra Credit
Extra credit is given periodically. Only students who are present in class are eligible for extra credit.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, if you believe that you have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, you may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon you to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. If you have a complaint, please first discuss it with Dr. Ross. 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, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs at 825-2612.

Dropping the Class
If you are considering dropping this course, please discuss it with me to be sure it is the best course of action. Should you decide to drop the course, you must initiate the process by going to the Student
Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Simply 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.

Classroom Policies

Tardiness
You are expected to be on time. Part of your course grade reflects your attendance and participation in class, and, therefore, it is imperative that you are prepared to attend class to be successful in this course. If you are more than ten minutes late, you will be counted as absent.

Rights Responsibilities and Civil Discourse:
In this course we will engage in active learning including frequent group activities and interactions. To meet these many significant learning objectives it will be necessary to establish some ground rules for class discussions so that no one individual dominates the discussion and so that the diverse opinions of others can be respected. You and your classmates will make suggestions that will ultimately be compiled into a set of rules responsibilities and guidelines for civil discourse in this class. Students are expected to read and follow the University Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook, given to them in class at the beginning of the 1st semester.

Class Decorum
During class you are expected to behave respectfully and contribute to a positive learning environment. This means that refrain from using technology inappropriately (i.e. text messaging) in class. Also, during class discussion, you are expected to be respectful of others' opinions and open to a diversity of ideas.

Course Communication
All course communication is sent through your university email account (Islander account), and all course materials and announcements are posted to Blackboard. If you need assistance with these, contact the Student Computer Helpdesk at 361-825-5618.

Academic Integrity
You are expected to do your own work. If you are caught cheating in any way, your grade for that assignment will be changed to an F and the appropriate university officials will be contacted regarding your behavior.

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 Corpus Christi Hall 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 at (361) 825-5816.

Expectations:
In this class we are learning how to be successful both in college and in life as university educated professionals. For this reason my philosophy is to treat you as the professional that you are aspiring to be. Let this thought guide you any time that you are not sure how you should conduct yourself in seminar:

"How would I be expected to conduct myself if I were already working as a professional and if my paycheck depended on professional behavior?"