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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:55a.-11:55a., Monday 1:00-2:00p
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Course Information:
UCCP 1102.480 MW 2-2:50 BH-112
UCCP 1102.481 MW 3:30-4:20 BH-112
UCCP 1102.490 MW 10-10:50 OCNR-258

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, cooperation, and collaboration and using electronic resources for you research.

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.

Sustainable FOLDER AND PORTFOLIOS – 30 points
Sustainable Folder
This is an "in-process" folder for Triad L, which will include finished and progress "evidence from within the Triad L Learning Community. The work/assignments you collect will be representative of the Triad, as a whole; progress, growth and sustainability. Construct your
"Sustainable Folder" in an effective way that will enable your instructor to navigate your work. Keep in mind that this folder will assist in the construction of the Triad L portfolio at the end of the semester.

**Due:** Friday, March 8th during your scheduled conference; worth 10 points

**Digital Portfolio**
This portfolio represents a student’s systematic and multifaceted selection, arrangement, presentation, and reflection of their work within the Triad L Learning Community over a semester's worth of time. As a student, you will display, by reflection, evidence of cognitive growth as a student, learner, and individual, and your evolving understanding of sustainability throughout the semester. The Triad L Learning Community challenges you to reflect by taking an active role in discussing the significance of your learning experience in relation to Political Science (large lecture), Seminar, and Composition. We also challenge you to explore ambitions for how to sustain yourself as a student after this semester.

**Due:** Wednesday May 1 by 5pm; 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. Simply being present in class will not earn you full points for the day. I will take into account participation, preparedness, and promptness when assigning daily participation grades. In addition, any disruptive behavior or use of electronic devices (including any use of laptops, cell phones and/or portable music devices) will be noted, resulting in a deduction of daily participation points. I reserve the right to deduct daily or average points from students who consistently lack engagement or disregard classroom rules.

To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (daily writings, quizzes, group tasks) every time we meet. You are allowed **two** absences. Use them well. After the second 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 Triad L 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 such as the Political Science Position Paper and Reflection on the Political Science Position Paper.

**Triad L Integrative Experience Assignment**
With this assignment students will address issues related to sustainability. In political science students will write a position paper using material from POLS 2306.
Furthermore, the position paper will be in alignment with the work students are doing in English Composition (students not in composition will use resources from the Writing Center).

**Due:** Monday, March 25th by 5pm via TurnItIn.com; worth 20 points

**Sustainability: Personal, Islander, Community (Multimodal Project) – 15 points (Will count in all of your LC classes)**

On a personal level you are on the verge of completing your first full University year worth of courses. Our Triad L Learning Community theme has been throughout the year, Sustainability—State, Local, and Personal. This is a multimedia/multi-modal project, which will require you to construct either a short film/PowerPoint/Prezi/PechaKucha/etc. Following in the Triad L theme of “Sustainability,” you will offer a final reflection by showcasing your learning experience and the evolution of the concept of sustainability as it applies to you in three levels: Sustainability on an Individual Level, Sustainability as an Islander as it relates to the Islander Pledge you recited at Freshmen Convocation, and Sustainability as a member of your respected community in relation to literacy and civic mindedness, and global citizenship.

**Due:** Monday/Wednesday, April 29th/May 1st for presenting your project; worth 15 points.

**First Year Research Conference**

This is a time for students to present the research projects they have been working on all semester. It is a voluntary conference and students are not required to apply. BUT, all Seminar students are required to attend and watch two presentations (same as last semester with Celebration Day). There is a evaluation form that you will need to fill out and turn in to your Seminar Instructor.

**Date of Conference / Due Date: Thursday, May 2nd; worth 5 points**

**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 (zero). Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. This includes but is not limited to: Claiming someone else’s work as your own, Downloading, purchasing, or “borrowing” pre-written essays off the internet or from friends and using them as your own, Using resource materials without correct citation, (i.e. APA or MLA) 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.

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

**Important Dates**
Wednesday, January 30: Last day to register or add a class
March 11 - 15: Spring Break
Friday, April 12: Last day to drop a class
Thursday, May 2: First-Year Research Conference
Tuesday, May 7: Last day of classes

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