**Instructor Name:** Romeo Garcia  
**Office Location:** FC 124  
**Office Hours:** Monday (8-9am), Tuesday (8-9am; 12-1pm), Thursday/Friday (8-9am)  
**Email Address:** Romeo.Garcia@tamucc.edu  
**Website:** http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RomeoGarcia/Home

**Course Information:** UCCP 1102.483  
M/W 3:30 pm-4:20 p.m.  
IH 158

**Course Description**  
UCCP 1102, First-Year Seminar II, is an important part of Triad L. 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/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

**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

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**Sustainable FOLDER AND PORTFOLIOS – 30 points**

**Sustainable Folder**
The “Sustainable folder” is an “in-process” folder for Triad L which will include progress and production—“evidence”—within the Triad L Learning community. The work/assignments you collect will be representative of the Triad as a whole: progress, growth, and sustainability. Similar to a cookbook/magazine, construct your “Sustainable Folder” in an effective way that will enable your instructor to navigate your work. “A Table of Contents” would make sense as a way to organize dates, meaningful descriptions of assignments, and what course the assignment is linked to. Keep in mind, this folder will assist in the construction of the Triad L portfolio at the end of the semester. Students will meet with their seminar and composition instructors prior and/or during mid-terms to review the “Sustainable Folder.”

Friday March 8, 2013 is the due date for the “Sustainable Folder” and is worth 10 points.

**Digital Portfolio**
The Triad L 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), Seminars, and Composition. We also challenge you to explore ambitions for how to sustain yourself as a student after this semester. Wednesday May 1, 2013 is the due date for the digital portfolio and is 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 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 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 three absences. Use them well. After the third 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.

**Sustainability: Personal, Islander, Community – 10 points**

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 a short film in 6 minutes length time. Following 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, and sustainability as a member of your respective community in relation to literacy, civic mindedness, and global citizenship. Monday/Wednesday April 29th/May 1st is the due date for presenting your film and is worth 10 points.

**Online Schedule**

A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RomeoGarcia/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.

**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 (0).
- 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.

Classroom/Professional Behavior (Professionalism and Class Expectations)
• Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and 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 instruction program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

• As a student of the university community there are general rules for acceptable college-level conduct. For my course, here are mine:
  o Be punctual: You cannot learn if you are not in class
  o Come to class prepared: Coming to class is a choice. Therefore, you need to come prepared with all assigned readings, homework, and mind (your input is valuable).
  o Be respectful: I will not tolerate disrespectfulness. Respect your peers values and opinions. You will be asked to leave if you are not respectful.
  o Communication: I cannot read your mind, know what is going on in your life, or acknowledge that you are struggling with classroom concepts/assignments if you do not communicate with me. I am here to help you.
  o Meet deadlines: As a student, it is your responsibility to turn in assignments according to their designated time and date. I have posted all due dates for major assignments to avoid confusion.

Electronic Devices
• Our class is held in a computer lab, so you will have full access to the internet and any other online resources you will need during our class meetings.

• Computers: During class time, do not use the computer (either in the lab or your own laptop) to login to Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, play games, chat, check your e-mail, or anything else personal and not related to class work. **Inappropriate use of technology may result in me asking you to leave class, resulting in an absence for the day.**

• Cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc.: A ringing cell phone during class time is extremely disrespectful and disruptive. Please disable all electronic devices BEFORE class begins – whether it be switched off, silenced, or switched to vibrate mode. Do not text or answer phone calls during class. If it is necessary for you to take a call during class on a particular day, come and speak to me before class and I will excuse you as needed. **If I see you with your cell phone out during class, I will ask you to leave class, resulting in an absence for the day.**

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.

Emails
• Always type in your course and section number, along with providing your full name in emails. Please use correct spelling, sentence structure, and address the email formally.
• Islander Email Accounts are very important. They will serve as my primary means of correspondence with you. Throughout the semester, I will be sending emails sharing important information relating to the learning community and I want to ensure that you receive this information.
• No assignments related to the Triad E community will be accepted over EMAIL! No Exceptions!

Respect for Diversity
• We are the most diverse campus, in terms of self-disclosed ethnic identity, in the Texas A&M system. This means that we are all meeting and working with people who are different from ourselves in terms of their identities: whether that is defined by their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and/or religion. Respecting and accepting differences are vital to your success in this class, on this campus, as a future professional, and in the global community.

Rights, Responsibilities, and Civil Discourse
• In this course we will engage in active learning including frequent group activities and interactions. We will be exploring real world topics that may at times result in contentious discussions as we meet the objectives of the course. To meet these many significant learning objectives, class dialogue that no one individual dominates the discussion and that the diverse opinions of others can be respected. Students are expected to read and follow the University Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and state and local laws.

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.

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 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.

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. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

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
  o 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.
  o 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.