Instructor Name: Jennifer L. Simpson  
Office Location: FC 119  
Office Hours: Tuesday (11am-1pm), Thursday (10:30am-12:30pm), Friday (1-2pm)  
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Website: http://triadlseminar.weebly.com

Course Information:  
UCCP 1101.470 M/W 10 a.m.-10:50 a.m. OCNR 255  
UCCP 1101.471 M/W 11 a.m.-11:50 a.m. OCNR 255  
UCCP 1102.492 M/W 2 p.m.-2:50 p.m. IH 158

Course Description  
UCCP 1101, First-Year Seminar I, 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/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

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 effect 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 Conferences; 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

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

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**
Most daily work cannot be made up or accepted late. If a student misses a readings quiz in Seminar, s/he must contact the instructor prior to the next class meeting to make up the quiz. Major assignments will NOT be accepted late. Please consult with your Triad M instructors at least 24 hours before the due date if you encounter issues that may impact your ability to submit a major assignment (such as the midterm reflection or final portfolio) on time.

**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](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.