Instructor Name: Dr. B. McDowell
Office Location: FC 115A
Office Phone: 825-2150 (leave message)
Office Hours: MW: 1-3pm and by apt.

Email Address: buddy.mcdowell@tamucc.edu
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/buddymcdowell

COURSE DESCRIPTION
First-Year Seminar is an important part of Triad L. This first-year learning community—especially the seminar—is designed to help you achieve success in your Political Science class. This seminar will challenge you with college-level intellectual work and develop your critical thinking skills, information literacy, and you will learn how to examine problems and questions from multiple perspectives.

COURSE THEME
The seminar follows the Politic Science 2306 course themes of “Sustainability” and “Civic Engagement”. These will be used in class discussions and assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Provide student support for Political Science 2306
- Explore the interconnections among the Triad/Tetrad courses (if in a learning community)
- Develop critical thinking skills and significant learning
- Develop personal values, goals, and strengths
- And the ability to learn through study, discussion, writing, cooperation, and collaboration

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Students will apply interdisciplinary knowledge to successfully address and analyze assignments and issues in the Political Science course.
- Students will interpret and evaluate various research materials and/or perspectives

COURSE MATERIALS:
Seminar is a discussion course and many of these discussions will be focused on the readings and information gained in your large lecture. You will work with the books and materials from the Political Science class. You are expected to have regular access to a computer with the appropriate and fully understand how to use Blackboard, including how to upload documents to Blackboard. Computers are available in CCH, CI and the Library.

GRADES:
ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION – 30%
It is important that you attend each and every class. There is nothing that we will do that is not important to your success in this triad or will not contribute to enhancing your college career. To encourage attendance, I will take attendance every time we meet. It may be in the form of simply signing in on a sheet of paper or taking up something from you (daily writings, quizzes, group tasks). In addition, when you come to class, please participate! Your knowledge and opinion are valued and appreciated at every class meeting.
INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENTS - 40%
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to the Political Science course and the learning community. To reward and encourage success on learning community assignments and projects, many will also count for credit in both Political Science and Seminar course. We may also do activities and assignments in Seminar to support the completion/reflection of various assignments in the learning community. Some of these assignments will also count for a grade in Political Science, such as position paper (15%), year end reflection (10%) and attendance at the research conference (10%).

MID-TERM/FINAL PORTFOLIO – 30%
There will be two seminar projects that you will be working on this semester. The first is a midterm portfolio worth 15% and a final portfolio, also worth 15% of your course grade. Details on each will be explained in class.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 30</td>
<td>Last day to register/add a class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-F, March 11-15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 12</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 7</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., May 15</td>
<td>Political Science final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATE WORK
Assignments will NOT be accepted late. It is your responsibility to be in class and turn your work in on time.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is an academic community and requires that individuals respect the needs of others to study and learn in an academic environment, which accepts open discussions, respect of all opinions and experiences, and does not interfere with a productive learning 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 instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to the appropriate disciplinary actions. This also applies to electronic devices. Please put on silent and be considerate of the use of your electronics during class. If there is a continued problem with any electronic device additional class rules may be implemented.

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 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.

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.

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.