Instructor: Rita Sperry  
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Course Information:  
UCCP 1102.526 MW 11:00-11:50AM OCNR 118  
UCCP 1102.527 MW 12:00-12:50PM OCNR 118

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

Major Course Requirements

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%  
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 course and the learning community as a whole. To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (group work, reflective writing, quizzes) every time we meet. You are allowed two free absences. Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade. Egregious tardiness and/or disruptions will negatively impact your participation grade.

HISTORY LECTURE QUIZZES – 10%  
As part of Triad M, you will be taking quizzes in History lecture. These quizzes will also count for a portion of your Seminar grade because success in the entire triad is dependent on your attendance and active participation in History.

EXAM REVIEW FACILITATIONS – 15%  
In order to allow you to take more ownership of your learning this semester, you will be assigned to work in groups to prepare class facilitations over exam review information from History. Teams and topics will be selected in early February and the facilitations will take place throughout the remainder of the semester.

TRIANGLE FIRE QUIZZES, RESPONSES, AND EXAM – 15%  
This semester in Triad M you will read the book Triangle: The Fire That Changed America. You will take quizzes over the chapters in Seminar, compose reading responses for Composition, and ultimately write an essay exam over the entire text in History. Because reading this book is essential to your success in Triad M, these assignments will collectively comprise a major portion of your final grade in Seminar.
MIDTERM REFLECTION – 15%
A reflective piece will be due prior to Spring Break. This assignment will allow you the opportunity to reflect on your progress thus far and create goals to finish the semester and year successfully. The midterm reflection will be due on Friday, March 8th at the beginning of History lecture. More information will be provided in class and online.

TRIAD M FINAL PORTFOLIO – 15%
A final portfolio based on the themes of Triad M will be due at the end the semester. See the online description for a better understanding of the portfolio, which is due on Monday, May 6th at the beginning of History lecture.

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

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RitaSperry/Spring2013ClassPlans

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