UCCP 1101-002: Independent Seminar
“The Choice”

Instructor Name: Andrew M. Garcia, J.D.
Office Location: FC 124
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00AM-12:30PM

Email Address: andrew.garcia@tamucc.edu
Class Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AndrewGarcia/Home
Class Twitter: www.twitter.com/GarciaSeminar

Course Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.006</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>9:00AM-9:50AM</td>
<td>BH128</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.002</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2:00PM-2:50PM</td>
<td>OCNR 133</td>
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Course Description:

First-Year Seminar is a two-semester course sequence required of all full-time first-year students. Seminar helps students achieve success, academically and socially, as they make the transition to the university. Seminar provides students with opportunities for meaningful interactions with faculty and peers about substantive matters as well as timely, constructive feedback about their learning. Students are immersed in an active learning environment with a purposefully integrated and contextualized curriculum, fostering the development of transferable skills and engaging them in the academic community. In UCCP 1101, students are introduced to college level work and responsibilities, and provided with appropriate support and resources to navigate their first semester.

Course Objectives:

The objective of UCCP1101 is to advance the six intellectual and practical skills defined by the TX Core Curriculum:

- Critical Thinking Skills
- Communication Skills
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

Student Learning Outcomes

- Reflect and integrate learning from learning community courses, including development of critical thinking skills, social and/or personal responsibility.
- Interact with faculty and peers about substantive matters through daily activities and discussions.
- Demonstrate competence of knowledge related to the learning community discipline(s) in a public forum.
EVALUATION

ATTENDANCE – 15%
Regularly attendance is unequivocally the most important step in ensuring you are successful in this course, and as a consequence, is worth a large portion of your final grade. I will be taking attendance every day. Students are allowed 2 absences without penalty. Each successive absence will deduct 10 points from your attendance grade. Students with approved documentation from the university will have their absences excused from this deduction.

PARTICIPATION – 15%
The seminar course, by its very structure, requires students to be present and engaged in course material and discussions. Students will have several in-class and online assignments that comprise their final participation grade. This grade will be at the discretion of the professor of record based on class engagement.

REFLECTIVE ASSIGNMENTS: (30%)
You will complete two reflective assignments this semester for independent seminar. Consider these assignments to be like your “exams.” The reflective assignments are designed to develop your metacognitive abilities. Metacognition basically means thinking about your own thinking. The more you reflect on your own experiences in college and make positive steps to improve, the better you will do. The assignments are as follows. More information will be given in class.

Midterm Reflection (10%): Due October 11 at 10PM
Final Reflection (20%): Due December 6th at 10PM

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: INTEGRATED ETHICS IN POLITICS—10%
Throughout the semester, individual students will be responsible for beginning class by presenting on an ethical/moral issue in politics which they have independently researched. This 15-minute presentation will require the development of a multimodal project (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) with some evidence of primary source research. The presentation schedule will be developed within the first several weeks of class.

ETHICAL REASONING GROUP PROJECT—20%
This is the culminating project for Independent Seminar. Randomly-assigned groups of 3-4 students will develop a research project regarding ethical reasoning at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. For example, students might develop and deploy a survey instrument regarding the ethical perception of campus-carry policies. This research will be utilized to create a poster presentation that will be unveiled at First-Year Symposium (FYS; see below).

FIRST YEAR SYMPOSIUM (10%)
All learning community students will participate in First-Year Symposium (FYS) at the end of the fall semester. FYC is an opportunity for students to share their academic work with the campus community. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description.

Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Important Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 31</td>
<td>Last day to register/add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 11</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22-25</td>
<td>Reading Days/Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 6</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8-14</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: [http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AndrewGarcia/Home](http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AndrewGarcia/Home)
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 assignments.

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. Laptops will be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

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.

Notice to Student Veterans
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. November 11th 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.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that his or her final grade reflects academic evaluation which is arbitrary, prejudiced, or inappropriate in view of the standards and procedures outlined in this class syllabus may appeal the grade given for the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the student believes the matter is not satisfactorily resolved at the student-faculty level, an appeal of the final grade in the class may be submitted, in writing, to the Chair of the Department of Undergraduate Studies. For complete details, please visit: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures.