Instructor Name: Danielle Pester, MS
Office Location: FC 113
Office Phone: 361-825-3602
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00pm and 3:00-4:00pm; Thursdays 1:00-2:00pm and 3:00-4:00pm
Email Address: danielle.pester@tamucc.edu
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/DaniellePester/Home

Course Information:
UCCP 1101.142  TR  11:00-11:50am  BH-128
UCCP 1101.145  TR  2:00-2:50pm  OCNR-130
UCCP 1101.161  TR  8:30-9:20am  CS-112
UCCP 1101.162  TR  12:00-12:50pm  BH-127

Course Description
First-Year Seminar is a two-semester course sequence required of all full-time first-year students. As the central component of a learning community, 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 objectives of First-Year Seminar I are to advance the six intellectual and practical skills defined by the Texas 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

MIDTERM REFLECTION AND FINAL PORTFOLIO – 30%
Two reflective assignments will be due during the semester. The midterm reflection will be due on 10/25 (Week 10) and is worth 10% of your grade, while the final portfolio will be due Final Exam week and is worth 20% of your grade. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description.

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 learning community. Missing class will affect your grade, as will not being prepared or not participating in a meaningful way. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and to compose thoughtful short assignments. I will take attendance each time we meet. Simply being present will not earn you full points for the day. I will take into account participation, preparedness, and promptness when assigning daily participation grades. You are allowed two absences. Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade.
INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES – 20%
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to your other courses in the learning community. To reward and encourage success on learning community assignments and projects, many will also count for credit in Seminar.

FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 10%
All learning community students will participate in First-Year Symposium (FYS) at the end of the Fall 2016 semester. First-Year Symposium 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.

SEMIESTER ACTION PLAN- 10%
You will be asked to identify specific goals for the semester and your Seminar instructor will discuss strategies and approaches for achieving these goals with you in class and in individual conferences.

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/DaniellePester/Fall2016ClassPlans

Late Work
There will be no make-ups for missed daily grades because those assignments are part of your attendance and participation grade. For major assignments, no late work will be accepted unless you are granted a pre-approved extension. Please email me at least 48 hours before the due date if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss a due date. You will need to provide documentation that proves an extension was granted and you will need to propose a new due date and time in which to turn in the assignment.

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.