UCCP 1101-231: First-Year Seminar I
TRIAD D: “Community and Civic Engagement”

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.212</td>
<td>MW 9:00-9:50AM</td>
<td>OCNR 258</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.213</td>
<td>MW 10:00-10:50AM</td>
<td>OCNR 258</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.231</td>
<td>MW 12:00-12:50PM</td>
<td>OCNR 258</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.211</td>
<td>MW 1:00-1:50PM</td>
<td>OCNR 258</td>
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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 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

REFLECTIONS – 30%
Midterm Reflection 10% DUE September 28th at 10PM
Final Reflection 20% DUE November 16th at 10PM

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.

INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENT – 20% (WILL COUNT IN ALL TRIAD CLASSES)
DUE: MONDAY OCTOBER 10TH at 10PM

LOCAL POLITICS PAPER: Students will be responsible for developing a research paper (3-4 pages) that examines the political dynamics of a local (or regional) issue that affects university students at TAMUCC. For example, a student may choose to analyze the political implications concealed firearms statutes on Texas campuses. This paper will require multiple, cited sources (presented in APA-format) and will ask students to analyze and synthesize political issues in the status quo. As an integrated assignment, the grade received on this paper will be applied to all courses in the learning community (ENGL, UCCP, and POLS). A more specific assignment description, including a sample grading rubric, will be disseminated in class.

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT ASSIGNMENT – 10%
Students are required to attend THREE (3) campus events or activities out of class. For example, you could go see a theatre production or musical production, attend a guest speaker presentation, watch one of our TAMUCC sporting events, etc. If you are unsure if an event or activity will be acceptable for this assignment, please ask your instructor for approval. Students will be required to create a reflective writing post on the CLASS JOURNAL to receive credit for this assignment.

FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 10%
All Triad D 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 greater campus community. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description.

Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Dates</th>
<th>Last day to register/add a class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 11</td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop a class</strong></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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Important Dates

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

Late Work
Students that experience extenuating circumstances or otherwise anticipate missing major assignment due dates (reflections, integrated assignment, etc.) must contact Professor Garcia **BEFORE** the actual deadline to become eligible for late submission. In general, students are allowed one additional course period to turn in major assignments (though other arrangements may be made). Students that fail to preemptively contact the professor before the due date will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. There will be **no** make-ups for missed participation 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.