Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Undergraduate Studies Fall 2016
UCCP 1101.331: First-Year Seminar I (Dyad G)

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Office Hours: MF 2:00-3:00pm; TR 8:00-9:30am; by appointment
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Course Information: UCCP 1101.331  TR 2:00-2:50pm  OCNR-255

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.
- Take personal responsibility and become a self-directed college learner.
- Collaborate effectively as both a leader and follower.

Dyad G Specific Learning Outcomes for Geology & Environmental Science Majors
- Read and comprehend scientific articles, reports, and books.
- Understand the role and purpose of different forms of academic literature.
- Evaluate the scientific accuracy of claims made in literature.
- Understand scientific methodology.
- Demonstrate comprehension of concepts through writing.
- Effectively use library tools to research topics.
- Develop awareness of one’s present and future role in the geology & environmental science professions.
- Understand the role of geology & environmental science in a historical and sociopolitical context.
Course Information Online – Syllabus, Weekly Plans, Assignment Info, etc.
http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/VanessaCrocker/Fall2016ClassPlansG

Important Dates
- **Wednesday, August 31**: Last day to register/add a class
- **Friday, November 11**: Last day to drop a class
- **November 22-25**: Reading Days/Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Tuesday, December 6**: Last day of classes
- **December 8-14**: Final Exams

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EVALUATION

**Portfolios – 30%**
Two portfolios, each worth 15% of your course grade, will be due during the semester. The midterm portfolio will be due on TBD (Week 7/8), while the final portfolio will be due on TBD (Week 14/15 or Final Exam week). See the online portfolio descriptions for more information.

**Attendance and Participation – 30%**
I view the difference between attendance and participation as similar to the difference between quality and quantity. A balance must be struck to achieve the most effective classroom environment, and with this in mind I have weighted each participation higher than attendance to encourage more engaged student involvement in this course.

- **Attendance (10%)**
  - 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. Students present for the entire class will receive credit for attending. I will allow **two** “unexcused” absences (freebies, if you will). Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade. (See “Policies” section below for information about officially excused absences.)

- **Participation (20%)**
  - Credit for participation will determined by completion of seminar-specific in-class assignments AND active engagement in individual, group, and class discussions. In-class assignments may include but are not limited to completing daily writings, quizzes, group tasks, etc. Active engagement involves coming to class prepared, participating and contributing to discussions, and being a good citizen in class. Factors such as excessive off-topic talking, sleeping, inappropriate internet use (social media, texting, email, games, chat) and other negative behaviors will lower your participation grade.

**Integrated Activities – 30%**
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. The tentative breakdown will be 10% for activities supporting GEOL 1403 (e.g., exam reviews, lecture-note reflections, problem-solving, etc.) and 20% for activities supporting student preparations leading up to the First-Year Symposium (see next).

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

Late Work
As a rule, no late work will be accepted. As an exception to the rule, please contact me 48 hours 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 in-class activity grades.

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.

TAMU-CC Absence Policy
The following has been copied from the General Academic Polices and Regulations webpage (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=177).

- If students are absent from class on approved University business (e.g., intercollegiate athletics competition/travel, field trips, student research conferences, Board of Regents meetings), faculty members should count this as an excused absence and should not penalize the student for it. Students should be allowed to make up any required course work in advance or after their return to campus. Students are responsible for informing their instructors about the trip in advance so that the faculty members can make plans accordingly. If any doubt exists as to whether the activity in question is considered official University business, contact the Provost’s Office.
- In accordance with Texas Education Code 51.911, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused for observance of a religious holy day may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.
- Texas Education Code, Section 51.911 defines a religious holy day as a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. If a student and an instructor disagree that the absence is for the observance of a religious holy day, or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the Provost. The student and instructor shall abide by the decision of the Provost.
- If a student’s academic course work includes patient care, the University may exclude from these policies and procedures any student absence for religious holy days that may interfere with patient care.

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.