Course Information: UCCP 1101.494  TR 10:00 – 10:50  BH 128

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

PORTFOLIOS – 25%
Your midterm reflection will be worth 10% and your final reflection will be worth 15% of your grade. The midterm portfolio will be due Week 8 (Oct 10 – 14), while your final portfolio will be due Week 16 (Dec 5-6). See the online portfolio descriptions for more information.

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. Contrary to popular belief … this is not a blow off course. It is specifically designed to help you succeed. I will be taking attendance daily. You have 3 unexcused absences to use as you wish over the semester, but any absences after that WILL affect your final grade.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES – 30%
This semester the integrated assignment will be a group presentation offering multiple perspectives on a political topic. For more information about the assignment, see the online description.
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.

Online Schedule
The course schedule can be found at www.kristenruggles.weebly.com

Late Work
Late Work absolutely will not be accepted. I will offer extensions on the smaller assignments in our course, but the integrated assignment and portfolios will not have any extensions offered. Keep these things in mind. A note on the extensions: YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR THEM. I will not hound you for your work. If you need an extension, you will need to email me and get email confirmation of the new due date.

Electronic Device Policy
Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class unless otherwise instructed, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. There will be times when we use them for activities in class.

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.