Course Information:  UCCP 1101.632  1-1:50  CS 111  
UCCP 1101.633  2-2:50  CS 111  

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.

Course Evaluation

PARTICIPATION (15%) AND ATTENDANCE (15%) – 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. To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (daily writings, quizzes, group tasks) almost every time we meet. However, you are allowed two absences. Use them wisely. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade.
Learning Guides (10%) & ePortfolio (10%) – 20%
Because it is imperative that you keep up with the Philosophy readings each week, you will complete five learning guides (2% each) throughout the first half of the semester to help you understand the readings and become critical readers. To help you examine the value of the assignment in relation to your performance in Philosophy, you will construct a portfolio (10%) in the middle of the semester to demonstrate how the learning guides have been beneficial to your learning. The portfolio will be discussed in Seminar and will be due by 5pm on Friday, October 14.

Destination Graduation: Getting Out and About – (5%)  
In order to help you become more acquainted with the university, you will be expected to attend at least three Islander events of your choice throughout the semester and write a reflection about your experience. This assignment will be introduced during the second week of class.  
First Event Reflection due on or before Friday, September 30 by 5pm.  
Second Event Reflection due on or before Friday, October 28 by 5pm.  
Third Event Reflection due on or before Monday, November 21 by 10pm.  
For extra credit: Fourth and Fifth Event Reflections due on or before Wednesday, December 7 by 10pm.

Integrative Assignments – 20%

Mind/Body Research Presentation (10%): Research teams will be assembled to explore the question of the mind body relationship in light of recent science. Presentation materials will be due to BlackBoard on Tuesday, October 4 by 5pm. Presentations will take place in class on Wednesday, October 5 and Monday, October 10.

Free Will Philosophy Essay (10%): Essay topic and specific instructions will be discussed in lecture class and seminar class. Your essay will be due on October 31.

Reflective Assignments – 15%

First Reflection: Statement of Philosophical Views (5%): In response to the assignment prompt, you will provide a brief synopsis of your philosophical views. Further instructions will be provided in class. The reflection is due by Sunday, August 28 by 10pm.

Second Reflection: Statement of Philosophical Views (10%): A final assignment will be based on the Dyad P themes that we have addressed all semester. The assignment can be found on BlackBoard. The reflection is due by Sunday, December 4 by 10pm.

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. Participation is mandatory and will take place on November 30. Please plan accordingly.

Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</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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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 grades.

Electronic Device Policy
This classroom is a **no phone zone**! Unless, I instruct you otherwise, please keep your phones, laptops, tablets, etc. in your bag or on the floor.

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 Office of Veteran's Affairs at (361) 825-2331 in Student Services Center, 1st floor.

Notice to Pregnant Students
If you are pregnant and anticipate needing accommodations associated with your pregnancy, please contact the University's Title IX Office at (361) 825-2765 in CCH 130.

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](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures).

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