Instructor: Peter Jurmu
Office Location: FC 138
Office Phone: 361-825-3667
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 12–1 PM; Tuesday & Thursday, 11 AM–12 PM; Friday by appointment
Email Address: peter.jurmu@tamucc.edu
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/PeterJurmu/Home

Course Information: UCCP 1102.W01 Online only

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. The goal of UCCP 1102 is for students to participate in academic discourse and take ownership of their education in preparation for their future coursework and careers.

Course Objectives
The objectives of First-Year Seminar II 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
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect and integrate learning from learning community courses, including development of critical thinking skills, social and personal responsibility.
- Gain experience interacting with faculty and peers about substantive matters through daily activities and discussions.
- Establish relevance of learning in the learning community through real-world applications.

Technology Access
- For completing assignments: Computer (laptop, desktop, or tablet)
  - Computer labs are available for students who live on campus or near the University to use.
  - Computers like those available through public libraries will be sufficient for taking this course.
- Headphones optional for any video used in course materials (transcripts provided)
- Technology assistance is available to all students via phone and email (instructor) or via Information Technologies.
  - IT website: https://it.tamucc.edu/
  - IT email: ithelp@tamucc.edu
  - IT phone: 361-825-2692
**Major Course Requirements**

**DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION — 40%**

Active participation is absolutely vital to this class. Instead of meeting in person, we will have at least one weekly online discussion. By contributing to these discussions in the Blackboard discussion forum, you will earn up to 10 points, or 130 points total for the semester. In the latter half of the semester, each student will be assigned a week to post a topic (see Class Facilitations below). I value and appreciate your knowledge and opinion in every class discussion, as do your classmates.

*Each week,* discussion posts are due by **Thursday at 10 PM.**

**REFLECTIVE ASSIGNMENTS – 30%**

Two written reflections, each worth **15%** of your course grade, will be due during the semester. These reflective assignments are designed to develop your metacognitive abilities. “Metacognition” means “thinking about thinking,” which in this case means examining your own thought processes and how they manifest in your everyday life. The reflections are due on **October 12, 2016** and **December 6, 2016.**

**CLASS FACILITATIONS – 30%**

During Weeks 1-8, I will provide the topics for everyone to discuss online. These topics will be related to course material I also provide (see the end of the syllabus for course schedule).

In Week 6, I will assign different sets of 3-5 students to provide weekly discussion topics for Weeks 9-15. Each individual may post a separate topic, or you may work together in groups. Ahead of time, each individual or group must send me the following: a community they have researched, an issue of critical importance in that community, and how the individual or group believes they, as students and professionals, might address that issue. The goal of the assignment is to help you begin thinking about how to address real-world situations actively and productively through obtaining and sharing credible information.

Meanwhile, everyone not assigned to post topics during a particular week will continue to contribute to that week’s set of discussions. During Weeks 9-15, if you have posted the discussion topic, your weekly participation will involve helping to moderate your discussion.

**Important Dates for Fall 2016 Semester at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

- **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

**Online Schedule**

A detailed course schedule is available in three places:

- Blackboard Calendar
- Course wiki: [http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/PeterJurmu/](http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/PeterJurmu/)
- At the end of this syllabus

**Course Policies**

**Late Work**

Any major assignment (reflective writing or your discussion topics) will be accepted late without need for explanation, at a penalty of a letter grade per calendar day late. That means that 24 hours after the deadline, the maximum score you can receive on the assignment is an 89, and so on down to 0. Please contact me at least 24 hours in advance if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss a major due date so we can discuss how to resolve them.
**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 and Veterans**
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 Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116 (CCH 116). If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the online classroom, the in-person classroom, or anywhere 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 visiting or contacting the Registrar’s Office in the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Simply stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 11, 2016** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from oppressive behavior. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**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 Director of University Core Curriculum Programs. For complete details, please visit: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/) [Rules_Procedures](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/). For further assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the First-Year Seminar Coordinator, Dr. Rita Sperry, at [rita.sperry@tamucc.edu](mailto:rita.sperry@tamucc.edu).
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week and Date</th>
<th>Discussion/Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (8/24 – 8/26)</td>
<td>Read Syllabus and complete StrengthsQuest by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, September 8</strong></td>
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<td>2 (8/29 – 9/2)</td>
<td>Post in response to the Introductions topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, September 1</strong></td>
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<td>3 (9/5 – 9/9)</td>
<td>Post in response to the StrengthsQuest topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, September 8</strong></td>
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<td>4 (9/12 – 9/15)</td>
<td>Post in response to the Stress &amp; Time Management topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, September 15</strong></td>
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<td>5 (9/19 – 9/23)</td>
<td>Post in response to the Information Literacy topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, September 22</strong></td>
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<td>6 (9/26 – 9/29)</td>
<td>Post in response to the Confirmation Bias and Cognitive Dissonance topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, September 29</strong></td>
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<td>7 (10/3 – 10/7)</td>
<td>Post in response to the Finding Credible Information topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, October 6</strong></td>
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<td>8 (10/10 – 10/14)</td>
<td>Midterm Reflections due by <strong>10 PM on Wednesday, October 12</strong> &lt;br&gt;Post in response to the Persuasive Credibility topic by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, October 13</strong></td>
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<td>9 (10/17 – 10/21)</td>
<td>Assigned students: Post discussion topics by <strong>10 PM on Monday, October 17</strong> &lt;br&gt;Rest of class: Post in response to classmate discussion topics by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, October 20</strong></td>
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<td>10 (10/24 – 10/28)</td>
<td>Assigned students: Post discussion topics by <strong>10 PM on Monday, October 24</strong> &lt;br&gt;Rest of class: Post in response to classmate discussion topics by <strong>10 PM on Thursday, October 27</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Assigned Students Assignment</td>
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| 11 (10/31 – 11/4) | Assigned students: Post discussion topics by **10 PM on Monday, October 31**  
Rest of class: Post in response to classmate discussion topics by **10 PM on Thursday, November 3** | |
| 12 (11/7 – 11/11) | Assigned students: Post discussion topics by **10 PM on Monday, November 7**  
Rest of class: Post in response to classmate discussion topics by **10 PM on Thursday, November 10** | |
| 13 (11/14 – 11/18) | Assigned students: Post discussion topics by **10 PM on Monday, November 14**  
Rest of class: Post in response to classmate discussion topics by **10 PM on Thursday, November 17** | |
| 14 (11/21 – 11/25) | Thanksgiving Week – no discussions or assignments. Safe travels and Happy Thanksgiving! | |
| 15 (11/28 – 12/2) | Post in response to final discussion topic by **10 PM on Thursday, December 1** | |
| 16 (12/5 – 12/9) | Final Reflections due by **10 PM on Tuesday, December 6** | |