UCCP 110: First-Year Seminar I
Triad C: Inclusive America?
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Undergraduate Studies ~ Spring 2018

Instructor: Lizzy Lomax
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Course Information:
UCCP 1102.182 TR 1:00 – 1:50 pm Bay Hall 128
UCCP 1102.183 TR 11:00 – 11:50 pm CS 108

Linked Courses:
HIST 1301: US History to 1865 TR 2:00- 3:15 pm CI 138
COMM 1311 (182: TR 11 – 12:15, 183: TR 12:30– 1:45)

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
• 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.
• Discover relevance of learning in the learning community through real-world applications.

Important Dates
• Tuesday, January 23 Last day to register or add a class
• Tuesday, February 13 History Exam 1
• Tuesday, March 6 Midterm Reflection
• March 12-16 Spring Break
• Thursday, March 29 History Exam 2
• Friday, April 6 Last day to drop a class
• Thursday, April 26 First-Year Research Conference
• Tuesday, May 1 Final Reflection
• Wednesday, May 2 Last day of classes
• Tuesday, May 8 History Exam 3

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://firstyearwiki.tamucc.edu/wiki/LizzyLomax/Spring2018ClassPlans
Major Course Requirements

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%

There is nothing that we will do in class that is not important to your overall success in Triad K. Therefore, attendance is imperative. Missing class will affect your grade, as will not being prepared or not participating in a meaningful way. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and to compose thoughtful short assignments. To encourage attendance, I will take attendance each time we meet. In addition, individual and group exercises will be assigned each class meeting through which I will evaluate your performance and engagement. Simply being present in class will not earn you full points for the day. I will take into account participation, preparedness, and promptness when assigning daily participation grades. In addition, any disruptive behavior or use of electronic devices (including any use of laptops, cell phones and/or portable music devices) for non-academic purposes will be noted, resulting in a deduction of daily participation points. I reserve the right to award daily or average points to students who continually surpass classroom expectations. I also reserve the right to deduct daily or average points from students who consistently lack engagement or disregard classroom rules. Each student will be allowed two absences; after two absences, students will receive a zero for every class missed.

All seminar instructors for Triad C will also attend HIST 1301 lecture. This means that we sit in the back and can see what is on your computer screens, phones, etc. While daily attendance is not taken in large lecture, your participation grade for the HIST 1302 course will be affected if we see distracting or disruptive behavior at large lecture.

REFLECTIONS – 30%

Two reflections, each worth 15% of your course grade, will be due throughout the semester. The substance of these reflections will be discussed more thoroughly in class, but you must be in class on the day of the reflection otherwise you will receive a zero. If you know you are going to miss class on the day of either reflection you must make arrangements with me prior to the day of the reflection. If you miss the reflection you will not be allowed to make it up without proper documentation from Student Services. The Midterm Reflection will be held in class on Tuesday, March 6th and the Final Reflection will be held in class on Tuesday, May 1st.

INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENT—HISTORY QUIZZES – 10%

The focus of Seminar is to help students develop strategies for success in college, as well as to support the other courses in the learning community. As such, the average of your quiz grades in History will also count for a portion of your grade in Seminar. Early in the semester we will focus on how to best complete these quizzes as well as how to approach History so that you may be successful.

PRIMARY SOURCES PROJECT— 30% (OUTLINE AND ANALYSIS—10%, PRESENTATION—20%)

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, part of the course work and grade for Seminar will incorporate aspects of both History and Foundations of Communication. Throughout the semester you will be asked to select and analyze primary documents related to American History before 1865. The culmination of this exercise will be an individual presentation at the end of the semester. This presentation will count for part of your grade in all three classes in the learning community.

Course Policies

Late Work
Any major assignment (such as a portfolio or paper) will be accepted late, at a penalty of a letter grade per calendar day late. Please contact me at least 24 hours in advance if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss a major due date. Please note that this is my policy for our seminar course only, professors in our linked courses may have different late work policies which you should familiarize yourself with (this includes integrated assignments). I will not accept any assignments, late or otherwise, via email. No exceptions. This means you should not wait until minutes before the assignment is due to print your work.

Cell Phones & Other Technology
Please turn off your cell phones (or IPods, laptops, etc.), or turn them to silent, and put them away, before class begins, out of respect for your peers and me. I will try to remember to do the same! I understand that things pop up, and if you
need to excuse yourself from the classroom do so quietly without disruption to the class, you can explain to me what’s going on either after class or by email. **If you have your ear buds in, I will assume you are not listening, and I will deduct points from your participation grade.**

**Graded Events:** If you feel that you were graded unfairly & disagree with a grade that you earned, please follow these steps:
- Read the rubric, assignment description; did you follow all of the guidelines?
- Look on your paper for my specific, hand-written comments…do these shed any light?
- Next, come see me during office hours or schedule an appointment to see me to discuss your concerns.

If you are disappointed in your performance, and believe that the assignment you turned in is not representative of your best work, please come and see me as well. I am open to discussing ways to help you improve the grade you earned. You must observe a 24-hour waiting period and meet with me personally to discuss these options.

**Islander Email Account:** It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you activate your Islander Email account, as it will serve as my primary means of correspondence with you. Please ask if you have any questions.

**Civil Discourse:** In this course we will engage in active learning including frequent group activities and interactions. We will be exploring real world topics of both the past and present that may at times result in contentious discussions as we meet the objectives of the course. I think that these discussions are intellectually stimulating and vital to advancing your critical thinking skills, but they should always be conducted with mutual respect. Avoid making claims personal and be aware of your tone, when in doubt remember A.R.E. (Assertion, Reasoning, Evidence). To meet these many significant learning objectives, class dialogue that no one individual dominates the discussion and that the diverse opinions of others can be respected. Students are expected to read and follow the University Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and state and local laws.

**Respect for Diversity**
We are the most diverse campus, in terms of self-disclosed ethnic identity, in the Texas A&M system. This means that we are all meeting and working with people who are different from ourselves in terms of their identities: whether that is defined by their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and/or religion. Respecting and accepting difference is vital to your success in this class, on this campus, as a future professional, and in the global community.

**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. **April 6th** 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.tamu.edu/Rules_Procedures.