Instructor: Amy Carter  
Office Location: FC 120  
Office Phone: (361) 825-2602  
Office Hours: M: 12-1; T: 10:30-12:30; W: 12-1; R: 10:30-12:30 or by appointment.  
Email Address: amy.carter@tamucc.edu  
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AmyCarter/Home

Course Information:  
UCCP 1102.291  M, W/ 9 am  Room # IH 158  
UCCP 1102.292  M, W/ 10 am  Room # IH 158  
UCCP 1102.290  M, W/ 1 pm  Room # OCNR 133

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.

EVALUATION

REFLECTIONS – 30%  
Introductory Reflection  10%  DUE  Monday, Feb. 5th at 9 AM  
Final Reflection  20%  DUE  Tuesday, May 1 at 5 PM

ATTENDANCE – 15%  
Regularly attendance is unequivocally the most important step in ensuring you are successful in this course, and as a consequence, is worth a large portion of your final grade. I will be taking attendance every day. Students are allowed 2 absences without penalty. Each successive absence will deduct 5 points (out of 100) from your attendance grade. Students with approved documentation from the university will have their absences excused from this deduction.

PARTICIPATION – 15%  
The seminar course, by its very structure, requires students to be present and engaged in course material and discussions. Students will have several in-class and online assignments that comprise their final participation grade. This grade will be at the discretion of the professor of record based on class engagement.
INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENT – 20% WILL COUNT IN SEMINAR AND POLS!

DUE: TBD***

Fragile Freedom Letter (FFL): Students will be responsible for developing an original demand letter or advocacy statement (3-4 pages) directed to a political decision-maker. This document will affirm or advocate for a specific policy action based on a germane social issue. For example, a student could write a letter to a major petroleum company condemning the usage of hydraulic fracturing in south Texas.

Students will be responsible for showing evidence that their advocacy and position is informed by current and credible research and considered differing perspectives and arguments. As an integrated assignment, the grade received on this assignment will be applied to all courses in the learning community (UCCP, and POLS). A more specific assignment description, including a sample grading rubric and research log, will be disseminated in class.

ONLINE NEWS PROJECT – 10%
Students will be required to research and analyze the way their chosen topic for the FFL is being discussed, articulated, and debated online. Students will seek out online news and compare the different narratives provided by each news source. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description. Due on April 20 at 4:20. This due date is in no way implied to endorse the use, sale or distribution of cannabis.

FIRST-YEAR RESEARCH CONFERENCE* – 10%
Students in the Triad F community will be required to participate as engaged audience members in the First-Year Research Conference (held at the end of the spring semester on April 26th.) FYRC is an opportunity for students to begin professional research initiatives and share their academic work with the greater campus community. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description.
*Students will have an opportunity to apply to present their research at the conference.

Important Dates
Tuesday, January 23       Last day to register or add a class
March 12-16             Spring Break
Friday, April 6          Last day to drop a class
Thursday, April 26       First-Year Research Conference
Wednesday, May 2         Last day of classes
May 4-10                 Final Examinations

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AmyCarter

Course Policies

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.

Late Work
I will NOT accept late daily work assignments in Seminar because those assignments are, in essence, part of your attendance and participation grade. There will be no make-ups for missed daily grades. For any major assignment, please email me at least 24 hours before the due date if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss a due date. You will need to propose a new due date and documentation that proves an extension was granted. If you do not meet your new deadline your assignment will be penalized a letter grade each day the assignment is not turned in. This policy includes weekends.
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. Students experiencing pregnancy should seek out the Title IX Office on Campus at (361) 825-2765, located in Corpus Christi Hall Rm. 130.

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 or the Veterans’ Affairs Office at (361) 825-361, located in Student Services Center, 1st floor.

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.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/.