Instructor Name: Melanie McMahon, Ph.D.
Office Location: FC 124
Office Phone: 361-825-2306
Office Hours: Mon 12:00-2:00; Tues 12:15-1:15; Weds 12:00-2:00; and by appointment
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Course Information:
- UCCP 1101.008 2:00-2:50 MW BH 202
- UCCP 1101.006 2:00-2:50 TR OCNR 258
- UCCP 1101.007 3:30-4:20 TR OCNR 258

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.

Major Course Requirements
PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%
Attendance is vital. Each class period is devoted to something crucial to your success. Three tardies constitute an absence. Cell-phone use will negatively impact your participation grade.

HOMEWORK and IN-CLASS DISCUSSION – 15%
These are the activities we will do periodically throughout the semester to help you prepare for your major assignments, build academic skills, organize your thoughts, express yourself orally and in writing, integrate with your peers and gauge your learning. You will be responsible for leading the discussion once during the course of the semester.

MIDTERM and FINAL REFLECTIONS: 25%
These 2-3 page papers are metacognitive exercises designed to allow you to reflect on your progress, accomplishments, and learning at both the midpoint and end of the semester.
FINAL PRESENTATIONS – 20%
The Final Presentation will be the culmination of a semester’s worth of thought, research and collaboration. It will be the basis of your First-Year Symposium project and will be delivered in Seminar either alone or in pairs.

FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 10%
All learning community students will participate in First-Year Symposium (FYS) at the end of the Fall 2017 semester. First-Year Symposium is an opportunity for students to share their academic work with the campus community. More information will be provided as the date near

Important Dates
Tuesday, September 4  Last day to register/add a class
**Friday, November 9**  Last day to drop a class
November 21-23  Reading Day/Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday, December 5  Last day of classes
December 7-13  Final Exams

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at:
http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/MelanieMcMahon/Fall2018ClassPlansIndie

Late Work
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
Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Laptops may be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

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 at (361) 825-5816.

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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me before you decide to drop this course.** 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 9** 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/index.html.
I-CARE
TAMU-CC is committed to the safety and well-being of our campus community. If you need support or have a concern about the behavior or safety of a fellow student, you may share your concerns with I-CARE by submitting an online referral to icare.tamucc.edu. Your report will help us to provide outreach, support, and early intervention.

Think About It
All UCCP 1101 students are required to complete the Think About It training to prepare you for the unique challenges associated with being a university student. You should have received an email prompting you to take the course before you arrived on campus. Please complete the training before October 1st, to avoid a registration hold that will prevent you from registering for Spring 2019 classes. If you did not receive the email, please talk with me or contact thinkaboutit@tamucc.edu for a new access link.