UCCP 1101: First-Year Seminar I Triad/Dyad C
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Undergraduate Studies ~ Fall 2018

Instructor Name: Sean Britt
Office Location: FC 130
Office Phone: 825-2985
Office Hours: MW 4-5pm, TR 8-9am, F 12-1pm
Email Address: mailto:sean.britt@tamucc.edu
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/SeanBritt/Home

Course Information: UCCP 1101.184 MW 2-2:50pm OCNR 222

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.

Evaluation

REFLECTIONS – 20%
Two reflective pieces of writing, each worth 10% of your course grade, will be due during the semester. One reflection will be conducted during Seminar at mid-term on October 20. The second reflection will be turned in via Blackboard by midnight on December 5. More information will be provided regarding this portion of your grade.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 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 the learning community! Your attendance each class day is recorded; however, this grade will be adjusted based on your level of engagement in the class. Blackboard will display your percentage in the Attendance column, and there are only 4 possible scores (Present, Late, Absent, and Excused), but the “late” category (80%) may result from behavior other than just tardiness. Disengagement or lack of participation, failure to inform me in advance of an excused absence (unless unavoidable), and/or a variety of other reasons that may impact your level of involvement in the day’s activities could also earn 80% of that class day’s score, which will show in your gradebook as “late.” Conversely, if you are especially engaged (leading discussions, demonstrating well developed ideas, contributing thoughtful questions or comments to discuss, etc.) could earn you extra participation points which will be added to your
score at mid-term and at the end of the semester. Your willingness to learn and interact are all you need to do well in this part of your Seminar grade!

HISTORY SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS – 10%
To help you with your comprehension of historical narratives, we will engage with a number of primary sources and other supplemental texts during class. These texts will often be part of the discussion posts found on Dr. Costanzo’s Blackboard to which we will further engage and analyze. This exercise is geared toward aiding in your understanding of the various historical narratives discussed and in your own analysis of primary sources.

ARGUMENTATIVE HISTORICAL ESSAY – 15%
This assignment is geared toward developing your skills to create and develop a historical argument. In it, you will evaluate evidence, interpret and gauge if/how change occurred, and explain historical occurrences through research. Dr. Costanzo will provide you a full explanation of this assignment in History.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES AND FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 25%
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, many will also count for credit in Seminar. All learning community students will participate in First-Year Symposium (FYS) at the end of the Fall 2018 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.

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/SeanBritt/FA18HistorySeminar

Late Work
Any major assignment (such as a reflection) 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
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 will 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](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html).

**I-CARE**
TAMU-CC is committed to the safety and wellbeing 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.