Instructor Name: Professor Amy Carter
Office Location: FC 122
Office Phone: (361) 825-2602
Office Hours: M: 2-3:30; T: Noon-1:15 and 2-3:30; W: 2-3:30; R 1-3 and by appointment.
Email Address: amy.carter@tamucc.edu
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AmyCarter/Home

Course Information: UCCP 1101.413 TIME: Noon-12:50 LOCATION: CS 114
                  UCCP 1101.412 TIME: 1-1:50   LOCATION: CS 114

Please note: On Wednesday, September 5th, we will meet in OCNR 242. Thanks!

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: Basis for Grades

REFLECTIONS – 25%
Two reflections will be due over the course of the semester. The midterm reflection will be due on TBD (Week 7/8) and worth 10% of the overall seminar grade. The final reflection will be due on TBD (Week 14/15 or Final Exam week) and worth 15% of the overall seminar grade. The assignments will be distributed in early September and early November, respectively.

ATTENDANCE – 15%
Regular 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 percent from your attendance grade. Students with approved documentation from the University will have their absences excused.

PARTICIPATION – 15%
The seminar course, by its very nature and structure, requires students to be present and engaged in course material and discussions. Students will have several in-class, and a few online, assignments that comprise their final participation grade. This grade will be at my discretion based on class engagement.

INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENT: The Advocacy Project – 20%
For your integrated assignment, students will use what they learn in each of the classes of our learning community to advocate, organize, and/or promote some kind of political change through writing. The issue you choose to explore should either come from a national political issue with local implications, or a local issue with national political implications (perhaps a national issue that is implemented locally, or a local issue that is part of a national problem). In essence, the issue you choose must have political ramifications. This project will require you to perform policy research and analysis.

Your writing will take the form of a real political genre of writing such as a position statement, press release, advocacy report, website, or strategic plan of action. This is not an exhaustive list, as which genre you choose to use will depend on your research and rhetorical situation.

This assignment will count as a portion of your grade in Seminar, Composition, and Political Science.

FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM (FYS) – 25%
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. At the Symposium, you will present your Advocacy Project. Participation in the Symposium is worth 10% of the overall seminar grade; the quality of your symposium presentation and related presentation materials is worth 15% of the overall seminar grade. PLEASE NOTE: THE FYS is on November 30. Your attendance is required!
**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 4</td>
<td>Last day to register/add a class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, November 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop a class</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21-23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, November 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>First-Year Symposium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 5</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7-13</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What’s Happening in Class?**

Please check your Islander email every day for announcements related to this course. Additionally, you are expected to access Black Board for readings, announcements, assignments, and grade reports. A detailed schedule for this course, including a day-to-day agenda, can be found at: [http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AmyCarter/Fall2018ClassPlans](http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/AmyCarter/Fall2018ClassPlans)

**Late Work**

Any major assignment (such as a reflection) will be accepted late with a reasonable penalty. 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 (i.e.: attendance and participation).

**Electronic Device Policy**

*Seminar class is a no phone zone!* Please do not use electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Laptops will be permitted for some 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 possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism.

*Students who cheat may be subject to automatic failure of a course or expulsion!*

**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 contact the Title IX office to take advantage of the accommodations to which one is lawfully entitled. The Title IX office is located in CCH 130 and can be reached at (361) 825-2765. Please do not hesitate to contact these offices for help—that’s what they are there for!

**Notice to Student Veterans**

The Office of Veteran Affairs is designed to help students who are veterans or those receiving veteran benefits. This office is located in the Student Services Building (The Round Building) and can be reached at (361) 825-2331. 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. Thank you to you and your family members for serving in the U.S. military!

**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 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 contact thinkaboutit@tamucc.edu for a new access link.