UCCP 1101: First-Year Seminar I (Triad L)
The Role of Government and Democratic Political Culture

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Undergraduate Studies ~ Fall 2018

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Course Information:
UCCP 1101.484 TR 2:00-2:50pm BH 201

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.

Learning Community L (LCL)
Learning Community L is comprised of this Seminar course, Political Science with Dr. Huerta, and Communications with Dr. Myers. The theme for Triad L is "The Role of Government and Democratic Political Culture." We will use this theme to frame our discussions and to answer the following questions:

- What is the role of government in a democracy?
- What is the role of the citizen in a democracy?
- What are the basic features of a democratic political culture?
- How is communication used to promote and/or to thwart democratic values and institutions?

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

MIDTERM AND FINAL REFLECTIONS – 30%
Two reflective writing assignments, each worth 15% of your course grade, will be due during the semester. The midterm reflective writing assignment will be due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, 10/16/18, while the final reflective writing assignment will be due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, 12/4/18, the last day of class. See the online reflective writing assignments descriptions for more information.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%
Attendance is the only way to benefit from my class. Most of your grade is based on your participation in critical activities and discussions. To learn to connect the concepts you learn this semester to your personal life, you must be present and prepared for class. Your knowledge and opinion is valued and appreciated at every class meeting. Attendance will be taken daily throughout the semester at the beginning, middle, or end of class, or via Blackboard. However, you are allowed two absences. Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade. Tardiness and/or disruptions to class will also affect your daily participation grade.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES – 20%
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to your Political Science and Communication classes in the learning community. To reward and encourage success on learning community assignments and projects, many will also count for credit in Seminar.

TEAM INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION – 10%
You will be asked to develop a team informative presentation based on a set of criteria to be explained by the communication instructor (this will also integrate material from your large lecture). This assignment will require you to construct an outline, a research journal and research synthesis chart, and a presentation using a slide-based visual aid. You will also give peer feedback on this presentation.

FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 10%
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. You are required to present in groups at FYS on Thursday, 11/29/18. 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://lorenwatts.pbworks.com](http://lorenwatts.pbworks.com)

Late Work
Any major assignment (such as a reflection or presentations) will be not be accepted 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. Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the professor. 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. Any distractions to the class caused by electronics will affect your participation grade for the day.

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.

Email Communication
Please consider e-mail as official correspondence. All email correspondence will be sent to your Islander email and via Blackboard. Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 24 business hours. If you do not receive an email within 24 business hours, please send a follow-up email. No replies to emails will be made after 5:00pm.
- No email correspondence on the day before an examination or deadline.
- Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message. Please use professional language and include your full name, class name, section number, and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. Unprofessional emails will result in non-response
Also, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you activate your Islander Email account and log onto Blackboard, as it will serve as my primary means of correspondence with you. Throughout the semester, I will be sending emails sharing important information relating to the learning community and I want to ensure that you receive this information.

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.

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.