Learning Community L (LCL)

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?
- Why is it important to use evidence and facts to understand and work with political issues?

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 – 30%
Two reflections, each worth 15% of your course grade, will be due during the semester. The midterm reflection will be due on 10/16 of Week 8. The final reflection will be due on 12/5 of Week 15. See the online reflection descriptions for more information. These assignments will be due in Blackboard in a .pdf, .doc, or .docx formats.

**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 this learning community. To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (daily writings, quizzes, group tasks) every time we meet. However, you are allowed two absences. Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade.

**TEAM INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION - 10%**
For the major collaborative assignment in this class you will work with a small group to deliver a 15-20 minute informative presentation related to a topic from large lecture. This assignment supports the university’s mission of preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a global community. This assignment will require the groups to produce an outline, a research synthesis chart, group/self evaluations, and a group presentation with visual aid. Additionally, this assignment will count as a shared assignment for COMM and POLS.

**INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES – 20%**
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to your other courses in the learning community. However, we will also be completing a variety of small assignments designed to develop the intellectual, social, and practical skills necessary for students to be successful in a university setting. These assignments include—but are not limited to—quizzes, reading responses, mini-reflections, and discussion forums.

**FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 10%**
All learning community students will participate in First-Year Symposium (FYS) at the end of the Fall 2018 semester on 11/29. First-Year Symposium is an opportunity for students to share their academic work with the campus community. Students will be able to use their team informative presentations at this event. However, they will need to create a professional and creative poster board to accompany their presentations.

**ISLANDER CITIZEN POINTS - Varies**
Throughout the semester you will have many opportunities to participate in a variety of activities and events, both on and off campus, and throughout our Coastal Bend community. From time to time, I will offer bonus points for attending and writing about these events.

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**Important Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 4</td>
<td>Last day to register/add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, November 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop a class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21-23</td>
<td>Reading Day/Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 5</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>December 7-13</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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**Online Schedule**
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: [http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/FirstLast/Fall2018ClassPlans](http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/FirstLast/Fall2018ClassPlans)

**Late Work**
Any major assignment (such as a portfolio) 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.

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 i-care.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.