**Course Info:**

Instructor: Rita Sperry, PhD  
Office Location: FC 117  
Office Phone: 825-3158  
Office Hours: W 1-2pm, R 2-3pm, and by appointment  
Email Address: rita.sperry@tamucc.edu  
Website: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/RitaSperry  
Course: UCCP 1102.021  
TR 1-1:50pm  
BH 128

**Course Description**

Learn what it means to be a student and member of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi community in the two-semester sequence of First-Year Seminar (FYS). FYS explores different facets of college knowledge for academic and social success. As the integrative engine of a learning community, FYS engages students in a collaborative learning experience. By attending learning community courses with students, FYS professors facilitate meaningful connections between linked courses. FYS students gain confidence in their individual skills and develop abilities for use in the academic community and beyond. UCCP 1102 emphasizes student success after the first year.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Synthesize connections between learning community courses by engaging in integrative experiences and assignments.
- Evaluate learning processes in learning community courses through self-reflection.
- Demonstrate academic development from learning community participation by completing integrative assignments and presenting in a public forum.
- Locate and utilize campus resources connected to learning community courses and university life.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

- Integrative Learning  
- Learning to Learn  
- Academic Development  
- Higher Education Navigation

**Evaluation**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION – 30%**

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. Disruptive behavior or egregious tardiness may also impact your class participation.

**FACILITATIONS – 10%**

In order to allow you to take more ownership of your learning this semester, you will prepare class facilitations over exam review materials. Topics and facilitation dates will be assigned well in advance. You will not be able to make up a missed facilitation.

**MIDTERM REFLECTION – 10%**

Prior to Spring Break, you will be asked to reflect on your progress towards meeting the goals of the learning community and your plan for successfully completing the Spring 2019 semester. More details will be provided in the form of an online description and in-class discussion and the reflection will be due on March 8, 2019.

**PROBLEM-SOLVING PROJECT – 30%**

First-Year Research Conference (FYRC) is the culminating event in the spring semester. All first-year students will work on projects that they may elect to propose to the conference, and are expected to attend at least one session on Thursday, April 25 whether or not they submit a proposal or are selected to present at FYRC. Students in Triad CS will be assigned a problem to solve that will require them to integrate the knowledge and skills gained in all of the courses in the learning community. Problems will be assigned in mid-February and students will work in teams to analyze, research, and attempt to solve their assigned problem throughout the remainder of the semester.
TRIAD CS FINAL PORTFOLIO – 20%
Your final portfolio will ask you to compile evidence and complete a reflection related to your development in relationship to the goals of Triad CS. In particular, you will need to argue the extent to which you have mastered the fine art of problem solving. The final portfolio will be due on Wednesday, May 1.

Important Dates
Tuesday, January 22  Last day to register/add a class
March 11-15  Spring Break
Friday, April 5  Last day to drop a class
Wednesday, May 1  Last day of classes
May 3-9  Final Exams

Online Schedule
A full schedule for this course can be found at: http://firstyearwiki.tamucc.edu/wiki/RitaSpeerry/Spring2019ClassPlans

Course Policies

Late Work
Any major assignment (such as a reflection or 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 Devices
Laptops and cell phones will be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate. Otherwise, please have your devices turned to silent and put away so as to not distract yourself or others.

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.

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 toicare.tamucc.edu. Your report will help us to provide outreach, support, and early intervention.

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. April 5 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 First-Year Learning Communities Coordinator. For complete details, please visit: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html.