UCCP 1102: First-Year Seminar II (Triad F)
The Personal Is Political

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Undergraduate Studies ~ Spring 2019

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Course Information: UCCP 1102.282 TR 1:00-1:50pm CS 112

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 faculty 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.

Course Objectives
The objectives of First-Year Seminar II are to advance the four intellectual and practical skills defined by the Texas Core Curriculum:
- Integrative Learning
- Academic Development
- Learning to Learn
- Higher Education Navigation

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.

Triad F Learning Outcomes
- Understand the political environment and how to participate therein.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
- Communicate in an informed and effective way.
- Enhance student personal, social, and academic wellness.

Evaluation

MIDTERM AND FINAL REFLECTIONS – 20%
Two reflective writing assignments, each worth 10% of your course grade, will be due during the semester. The midterm reflective writing assignment will be due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, 3/5/19, on the Seminar BlackBoard while the final reflective writing assignment will be due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, 4/30/19, on the Seminar BlackBoard, 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 are 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.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT** – 10%
Most of the work we will do in this course will relate to your Political Science research project that you will complete before the end of the semester. This research project will be based on a current political science topic that is specific to the State of the Union Address on 1/29/19. You will complete assignments both inside and outside of class as you work to integrate your research to both First Year Seminar and Political Science. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description. The grade you receive on your Political Science Research Project will also count for 10% of your grade in this course.

**OUTLINE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT** – 5%
In order to help prepare for your Political Science Research Project, you will complete an academic outline of your Political Science Research Project. You will receive extensive feedback on this assignment to help you prepare for your Political Science Research Project. The grade you receive for the Political Science Outline will also count for 5% of this class.

**COMMUNICATION GROUP INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION** – 5%
In your communication class, you will be completing a team informative presentation. These presentations will be based on the topics that integrate into your political science class. We will be completing activities both inside and outside of class that contribute towards completing these assignments. The grade you receive for your Group Informative Presentation in your Communication class will also count for 5% of your grade in Seminar.

**COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH LOG** – 5%
In order to help prepare for both your Communication Informative Presentation and your Political Science Research Project, you will complete a research log. This assignment will ensure that you have appropriate sources for both projects while also giving you feedback to help you succeed in both classes. The Research Log will be due on Thursday, 2/14/19, at 11:59pm on the Seminar BB. More details will be provided in the assignment description on BlackBoard.

**FACILITATIONS ON POLITICAL SCIENCE PODCASTS** – 10%
Over the course of the semester, every student will be assigned to a team to facilitate a class discussion on a podcast related to the political science course. Each team will be responsible to lead an in-depth discussion based on their assigned topic once during the semester. More information will be provided in the assignment description on the Seminar BlackBoard. You must be present during your assigned group’s date to receive credit for this assignment, as there is not a way to make up this experiential assignment.

**LEARNING COMMUNITY INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES** – 10%
Over the course of the semester, you will be required to engage in TAMUCC Community Activities to support student academic, social, and emotional wellness. As an individual, you will choose from a menu of options what you would like to do to complete this assignment. If you or your group present at FYRC, then you will receive full credit for this assignment. An assignment description will be posted on the Seminar BlackBoard with more information to follow.

**FIRST-YEAR RESEARCH CONFERENCE PROPOSAL** – 5%
You will develop a team proposal based on the topic from your Political Science Research Project and Team Informative Presentation in Communication for the First Year Research Conference (FYRC). Your team will decide if you want to turn your proposal in for conference consideration. If your team successfully presents your Political Science Research at FYRC, then you will receive automatic full credit for the Learning Community Integrated Activities portion of your grade. The FYRC proposal that every team must complete is due on Sunday, 3/17/19, at 11:59pm on the Seminar BB.

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**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 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 2 business days. If you do not receive an email within 2 business days, 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. The expectation is that every student will use informed and respectful language while working to understand others’ perspectives that are different from and similar to your own.

**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 5th** 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.