**UCCP 1101: First-Year Seminar I (Dyad ED)**  
The Political Life of a Teacher  
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi  
Department of Undergraduate Studies ~ Fall 2019

**Instructor Name:** Melanie McMahon, Ph.D.  
**Office Location:** FC 124  
**Office Phone:** 361-825-2306  
**Office Hours:** TR 12:00—2:00 and 3:00—3:30 and by appointment  
**Email Address:** melanie.mcmahon@tamucc.edu  
**Website:** http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/MelanieMcMahon/Home

**Course Information:**  
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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>UCCP 1101.212</td>
<td>11:00am—11:50am</td>
<td>133</td>
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<td>UCCP 1101.210</td>
<td>2:00pm—2:50pm</td>
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**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**

**PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%**  
Attendance is vital. Each class period is devoted to something crucial to your success here and in the learning community overall. Three tardies constitute an absence. **Cell-phone use will negatively impact your participation grade.**

**IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES, QUIZZES, DISCUSSION and HOMEWORK –20%**  
These refer to various methods of daily class engagement. They are designed to help you prepare for major assignments, build academic skills, organize your thoughts, express yourself orally and in writing, bolster your critical thinking capacities, strengthen your ability to analyze texts, keep up with the readings, communicate with your peers and gauge your learning.

**EDUCATION AND POLITICS PROJECT (INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENT) – 25%**  
Your integrated assignment—or the Education and Politics Project—will combine aspects of both courses of the dyad. Accordingly, it will “count” in both. You will choose from a list of topics relevant to the politics of education in Texas. Then you will research, synthesize, analyze and present your work as an in-class presentation (which will also serve as a rehearsal for Symposium).
FIRST-YEAR SYMPOSIUM – 10%
All learning community students participate in First-Year Symposium (FYS) at the end of the Fall 2019 semester. First-Year Symposium is an opportunity for students to share their academic work with the campus community. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion and an online assignment description.

REFLECTIVE WRITING – 15%
Metacognitive exercises such as self-reflection are one of the student learning outcomes for First-Year Seminar. We will produce a final reflection in the form of an essay (due at the end of the semester), a series of journal entries submitted throughout the semester or a combination of the two.

Important Dates
Tuesday, September 3       Last day to register/add a class
Tuesday, November 8        Last day to drop a class
November 27-29             Reading Day/Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday, December 4      Last day of classes
December 6-12              Final Exams

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/MelanieMcMahon/Home

Late Work
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 may 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 8th 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.