Instructor Name: Nikola Grafnetterova, Ed.D.
Office Location: Classroom East building, room 201
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 & Tuesday 3:00-4:00 or by appointment
Email Address: nikola.grafnetterova@tamucc.edu
Website: https://fyscholars.weebly.com

Course Information: UCCP 1102.006  MW 12:00-12:50pm  CS 111

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. FYS engages students in a collaborative learning experience where FYS faculty facilitate meaningful connections. 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 courses by engaging in integrative experiences and assignments.
● Evaluate learning processes through self-reflection.
● Demonstrate academic development by completing integrative assignments and presenting in a public forum.
● Locate and utilize campus resources connected to academic courses and university life.

Course Goals and Objectives
● Integrative Learning
● Learning to Learn
● Academic Development
● Higher Education Navigation

SEMINAR COURSE EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%
It is vital that you attend each and every class. There is nothing that we will do in First-Year Seminar that is not somehow connected to your success as a student and a lifelong learner. To encourage attendance, I will be marking your attendance every time we meet. However, you are allowed two absences. Use them wisely. After the second absence, any extra absences will negatively impact your grade. Included as part of your participation and attendance grade are additional daily assignments collected in class or through Blackboard. Daily assignments will not be accepted late.

THOUGHT TOPICS - 40%
Over the course of the semester, you will explore different questions central to your experience as a first-year Islander. For each of these questions, you will gather, read, and analyze the literature on the topic. In some cases, you will solicit data to help answer the questions. These questions/data will be used to highlight examples of what you are learning in your transition to the university. For each, you will be responsible for updating your digital portfolio to provide evidence of your discovered answers. More specific instructions will be provided in class throughout the entire semester. The questions are outlined below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thought Topic Question</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What are the most essential skills for success in my intended profession?</td>
<td>Week Three: Friday, February 7 by 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does the research indicate are the most essential skills for success in my intended profession?</td>
<td>Week Five: Friday, February 21 by 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>What are the ways to increase proficiency in the most important skills related to my future profession?</td>
<td>Week Seven Friday, March 6 by 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What understanding emerges from changing my behavior for five days to increase proficiency in a selected skill?</td>
<td>Week Twelve: Monday, April 13 by 6pm</td>
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**FIRST-YEAR ISLANDER: COLLEGE TO CAREER CONFERENCE – 10%**

The First-Year Islander: College to Career Conference is a combination of first-year student academic presentations and career related presentations or workshops. All first-year students will attend at least one student panel and one career panel at the FYI Conference on **Wednesday, April 22 or Wednesday, April 23 between 9am - 3pm**. Much like First-Year Symposium, it is a celebrated opportunity for students to share academic work with the campus community; however, students must submit a proposal to a committee of faculty evaluators to determine if the proposed work fits the academic guidelines of the conference. For this course, each student will draft a proposal, but only interested students will submit their proposal for conference consideration. Proposals are due to Blackboard on **Wednesday, March 25 by 6pm**. To be considered for acceptance to the FYI Conference, proposals are due by noon on Friday, March 27. More information will be provided in class. Incentives for FYI conference acceptance include resume building, academic presentation experience, additional time to complete your final presentation, and extra credit.

**DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & CHECKPOINTS - 20%**

Each student will create or update a professional website from a website generator of your choosing (Weebly, Wix, Google Sites, etc.) to highlight and track learning throughout the semester. The intended audience for the digital portfolio includes your professors, but also potential bosses or scholarship committees. In other words, your website should be carefully crafted so that it represents a professional image.

The digital portfolio checkpoints will take place twice during the spring semester. During week ten, your digital portfolio will be checked for content and style and will be worth 5% of your overall grade. At the end of the semester, you will write a reflective overview to guide your website audience through your work to describe how your learning ties into the outcomes for the First-Year Seminar course. The evaluation of the website and reflection at the end of the semester will be worth 15% of your overall grade; it will be due **Monday, May 4th by 6pm**.

**Important Dates**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 28</td>
<td>Last day to register/add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 10</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 22 &amp; Thursday, April 23</td>
<td>First-Year Islander Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 6</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
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<td>May 8, 11-14</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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</table>
Questions
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. For all non-personal questions, please post your questions in the discussion forum on Blackboard in the appropriate thread (e.g., digital portfolio, thought topics, first-year Islander conference, and general questions). The intention of utilizing the discussion posts is that many of you have the same questions. However, if you email me, your classmates will still not know the answer. Since we are a community of learners, we will utilize the discussion post. Note: for all personal questions, such as your grade on the assignment, please contact me directly via email or see me in person. Do not post those questions in the discussion forum.

Online Schedule
A detailed schedule for this course can be found at:
https://fyscholars.weebly.com/class-plans.html

Writing Center Opportunities
For each thought topic submission, students are invited to visit the writing center for an additional 10 points on each thought topic submission. To earn the points, students must visit the writing center within two weeks of the due date, make revisions to the content, and visit office hours to earn the credit.

Late Work
Most major assignments will be accepted late, at a penalty of 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.

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 10 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:
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 to iCare.tamucc.edu. Your report will help us to provide outreach, support, and early intervention.

Student Mental Health & Well-Being Statement
As a student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily life. If you are experiencing emotional distress or mental health issues, please visit the Counseling Center located in the Driftwood Building during walk-in hours or call (361)825-2703. Counselors are available by phone 24/7 to assist students who are in crisis. Services are free and confidential. For access to self-help resources and anonymous mental health screenings, visit the Counseling Center website at https://counseling.tamucc.edu. In an emergency, call 911 or University Police at (361)825-4444.

TAMUCC faculty are fully committed to supporting students and upholding an environment free of sexual violence and gender based discrimination. If a student chooses to confide in faculty or staff regarding issues of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, it should be understood that faculty and staff may be obligated to report this information to University Police or the Title IX office. Students can seek confidential assistance from the Counseling Center and/or the Health Center.

Due Dates of Major Projects*

| Thought Topic 1 | Friday, February 7 by 6pm |
| Thought Topic 2 | Friday, February 21 by 6pm |
| Thought Topic 3 | Friday, March 6 by 6pm |
| Conference Proposal | Wednesday, March 25 by 6pm |
| Thought Topic 4 | Monday, April 13 by 6pm |
| Final Digital Portfolio | Monday, May 4th by 6pm |

Note: additional projects and assignments will be introduced throughout the semester. As such, this list is not inclusive.

*The instructor reserves the right to revise this schedule as necessary.