UCCP 1102: First-Year Seminar II (Dyad F) - The Personal is Political
First-Year Learning Communities Program
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Spring 2020
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Course Information: UCCP 1102.290 21F TR 11:00 – 11:50am Center for the Sciences 111
UCCP 1102.292 23F TR 12:00 – 12:50am Center for the Sciences 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. 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

• Show mastery of key political science and communicative concepts with an understanding of how these relate to academic and day-to-day situations, in both individual and collaborative settings

• Engage in organized research processes for the purpose of evaluating and synthesizing information to support ideas in written and verbal genres, in both individual and collaborative settings

• Critically apply course materials, concepts, and process to reexamine pre-existing beliefs about social/political identity.

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 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.

Final Reflection– 20%

A final reflection will be due at the end semester. The final reflection will ask you to evaluate your experience in class, it will be due on 5/5 and be worth 20% of your grade.

Political Science Research Paper – 30% (Outline 10% - Final Paper 20%)

A key component of learning communities is an integrated assignment across the classes in the learning community. Moreover, writing is a skill that translates across majors and careers. To that end, you will use writing to explore a topic the president touches on in his State of the Union address. This project is unique to this class, but it will be very similar to the assignment you produce for the other classes in the triad. The assignment is broken up into an outline (due: March 3) and a final draft (due: April 14). More details on this assignment are provided in the Research Project section on Blackboard.

Podcast Report – 15%

This will be a small group project in which you will listen to a political podcast, gather information, and instruct the class on its contents. This is designed for you to practice your listening, writing, and communications skills.

Other Assignments – 5%

We will have various other small assignments, working with Career Services, the Student Conference, etc.

Important Dates

Tuesday, January 28 Last day to register/add a class
Thursday, February 27 Political Science Exam #1
Tuesday, March 3 Research Paper Outline Due
March 9 – March 13 Spring Break!
Tuesday, March 7 Political Science Exam #2
Tuesday, April 14 Research Paper Due
Tuesday, May 5 Final Reflection Due
Thursday, May 14 Political Science Final

Online Schedule

An Online Schedule for this course can be found on: https://jschaffer293.wixsite.com/website

E-mail/ communication Policy
I will be communicating important class info to you via your islander student email account. It is your responsibility to check your islander email regularly to stay up to date in this class. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or issues throughout the semester, this is the best way to reach me outside of class. Do not use the BB message feature to reach me, I have no idea how to use it, and will not receive your message.

**Late Work**

There will be no make-ups for missed daily grades. I understand that there may be a day where you forgot to set your alarm, are under the weather, or get stuck in traffic, remember that you have two free absences to account for this, but these do not constitute an excused absence.

For most of the major assignments, you will be asked to submit them via email or blackboard. If a due date happens to fall on one of those days that you miss, you still have the opportunity to get the assignment in before the start of the class on the due date. If it is not uploaded/sent by the due date it will not be accepted.

Emergencies happen, for me to consider an excuse or extension, you must provide documentation (when applicable) and be in communication with me prior to start of class/ due date about your situation.

For major non-integrated assignments please email me 48 hours before the due date to request an extension. You will need to propose a new due date and documentation to prove why the extension was granted. If you do not meet your own deadline you will receive a 0.

**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 peers and myself. Laptops and cellphones will be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate by the instructor. If students repeatedly violate this policy, then points will be deducted from your participation grade.

**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. November 8 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.
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 or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress or mental health issues, please visit the Counseling Center located in the Driftwood Building or call (361)825-2703. Counselors are available by phone 24/7. Services are free and confidential. For more information and to access on-line and mobile friendly self-help resources including TAO and At Risk for College Students, visit the Counseling Center website at https://counseling.tamucc.edu.

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.

I reserve the right to change this document at any point in the semester. Students will be notified about such changes if/when they are made.