Instructor Name: Dr. Cecilia Contreras
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Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. and Thursday 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. (and by appointment)
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Course Information: UCCP 1102.494 TR 9-9:50 am OCNR 222

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.

A successful experience in this course will depend on your individual commitment and work ethic, as well as your ability to be an active participant. I encourage all students to visit with me regularly throughout the semester, rather than waiting until the end of the semester to ask questions or express concerns. As in most courses, students should be proactive about their work and ready to discuss concepts and share examples during class. Furthermore, a professor who is familiar with their students is better able to help them accomplish their personal goals, so make yourself known for doing good work, contributing to class discussion, pursuing your professional interests outside of the classroom, and sharing your goals, successes, and challenges with myself and your peers.

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

Grade Distribution and Other Major Assignments
** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate students’ and/or instructional needs. However, you will be notified of those changes as they occur. Please visit the course website and view the class schedule on a regular basis to remain informed of such changes.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE – 30%
There is nothing that we will do in class that is not important to your overall success in the learning community; therefore, attendance is imperative.

**Going to Miss Class?** Missing class will affect your grade, as will not being prepared or not participating in a meaningful way. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to check the class plans for that day. It is best if you know you will be missing class, to let your instructor know ahead of time. If you miss class, please do not ask through email or ask “quickly” before or after the next class. This is what the class plans and peers are for. You are allotted 3 excused absences for the semester. Use them wisely! **After the third absence, any extra absences will affect your grade.**

Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and to compose thoughtful short assignments. To encourage attendance, I will take attendance each time we meet. In addition, individual and group exercises will be assigned each class meeting through which I will evaluate your performance and engagement. Simply being present in class will not earn you full points for the day. I will take into account participation, preparedness, and promptness when assigning daily participation grades. In addition, any disruptive behavior or use of electronic devices (including any use of laptops, cell phones and/or portable music devices) will be noted, resulting in a deduction of daily participation points. I reserve the right to award daily or average points to students who continually surpass classroom expectations. I also reserve the right to deduct daily or average points from students who consistently lack engagement or disregard classroom rules.

**INTEGRATED ASSIGNMENT - 25%**
For this project, you will work with three to four students in our class based on key concepts from your learning community courses. More information about this assignment will be provided in class. Please refer to the syllabi and online course websites for each other course in this learning community for more information. Please note that students who drop Seminar risk forfeiting the chance to earn points for the integrated assignment in the other courses in the learning community.

**MIDTERM REFLECTION- 15%**
You will use reflective writing to discuss how you have mastered the learning community outcomes from the learning community courses that you are enrolled. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion, handouts, and an online assignment description. Please see your individual professors’ web pages for assignment and submission details.

**FINAL REFLECTION- 20%**
As part of your learning community experience, you will compose a final reflection where you will share your perspective on a specific change you would like to advocate for based on the research you did for the Integrated Assignment. Your final reflection will include specific examples and should be used to gauge your growth this semester.

**ISLANDER COMMUNITY POINTS- 10%**
Throughout the semester, there will be various events, activities, and services on campus and/or in Corpus Christi that may enhance your learning experience as a first-year Islander. Your Seminar instructor will help you find events and activities to engage in. You will earn points by attending events and responding to a few structured questions after your participation. You will turn in your response per each activity, and these points (up to 10) will be part of your Seminar final grade. Throughout the semester, students will compile these reflections in their Online folder, and we will take time in Seminar to discuss these events and your takeaways.

Please note the due dates for Islander Community Points throughout the semester. Each event will be worth 2 points apiece every three weeks, five times over the semester. If you fail to ask for an extension before the due date for the submission, you will not be able to turn it in by the end of the semester.

Responses must be minimum 250-350 words.

Use the following questions to write a response:

1. What is the event? Why did you choose this event? Why did it interest you?
2. What did you learn? Provide concrete examples.
3. How does this event relate to the material covered in your classes? Explain.
4. Attach a photo of you at the event!
**Other Information**

**LATE WORK**
I will NOT accept late daily work assignments in Seminar because those assignments are, in essence, part of your attendance and participation grade. There will be no make-ups for missed daily grades. For any major integrative learning community assignment, please email your professor’s at least 24 hours before the due date if there are extenuating circumstances that will cause you to miss an assignment deadline. In the email, you will need to propose a new submission due date. Upon submission of the final product, documentation that proves an extension was granted must be provided. This policy includes weekends. **NO ASSIGNMENTS RELATED TO LEARNING COMMUNITY COURSES WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER EMAIL. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**STUDENT VISITING HOURS**
Attending student hours is a key to success in higher education, especially in writing intensive courses. **THESE HOURS ARE FOR YOU- USE THEM!** Your learning community professors and I expect that you utilize these hours for one on one feedback on your coursework, and to be able to address your learning needs on an individualized basis. Because of FERPA regulations, we cannot discuss grades in the classroom; this must be done during these hours. We want to give you feedback on your writing and learning process or any of the course content. In order to be fair, please abide by the following guidelines: we can’t spend more than 15 minutes with you during student hours if other students are waiting. Obviously, we are delighted to spend more time with you if our schedules permit. We are happy to answer specific questions regarding learning community assignments via email. However, we will not provide any detailed feedback on your writing via email, a student hour is more appropriate for that.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION**  Please consider e-mail as official correspondence.  Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 24 hours. If you do not receive an email within 24 hours, please send a follow-up email. During the weekend, I will not be as available over email as I am during the week. Please plan ahead for any questions or concerns you will have and contact me accordingly.

- No email correspondence on the day before an examination or deadline.
- E-mail communications should be about class business. E-mail is not the place for summaries of lectures, discussions, or readings, however. You will need to avail yourself to scheduled office hours or make an appointment to discuss these.
- Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message. Please use professional language and include full name and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. **Unprofessional emails will result in non-response.**

**GRADED EVENTS:** Once an assignment is submitted, there will be a 2-week turnaround period for you to receive the grades. If you feel that you were graded unfairly & disagree with a grade that you earned, please follow these steps:

1.) Read the rubric or assignment description and consider; did you follow all of the guidelines?
2.) Look on your paper for my specific, hand-written comments…do these shed any light?
3.) Next, come see me during office hours or schedule an appointment to see me to discuss your concerns.

If you are disappointed in your performance and believe that the assignment you turned in is not representative of your best work, please come and see me as well. I am open to discussing ways to help you improve the grade you earned. You must observe a 24-hour waiting period and meet with me personally to discuss these options.

**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 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 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.

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.