

UCCP 1102: First-Year Seminar II (Learning Community J)

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Department of Undergraduate Studies ~ Spring 2018

Instructor: Professor Jennifer L. Simpson
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Course Information:	UCCP 1102.411	MW 9-9:50am	BH 128
	UCCP 1102.414	MW 10-10:50am	BH 128
	UCCP 1102.430	MW 1-1:50pm	IH 158

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. The goal of UCCP 1102 is for students to participate in academic discourse and take ownership of their education in preparation for their future coursework and careers.

Course Objectives

The objectives of First-Year Seminar II 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.
- Discover relevance of learning in the learning community through real-world applications.

Major Course Requirements

REFLECTIONS – 30%

Two reflections will be due throughout the semester. See the online description for a better understanding of the reflections. Midterm Reflection is worth 10% and due by 11:59pm Monday March 5th. Final Reflection is worth 20% and due by 11:59pm Monday April 30th.

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 course and the learning community as a whole. To encourage attendance, I will be taking up something from you (group work, reflective writing, quizzes) every time we meet. You are allowed **two** free absences. Use them well. After the second absence, any extra absences will affect your grade. Egregious tardiness and/or disruptions will negatively impact your participation grade.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES/SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT – 40%

As the culmination of your work in your Learning Community J courses you will take your activism campaign into the community, using your research and organizing to pursue goals of raising awareness and driving change on the issue your group selected at the beginning of the semester. More information on this assignment will be available in this and your other courses in Learning Community J, and groups will have ample time to prepare. These activities will be worth 20% of your Seminar Grade and will culminate into a final research presentation that will count as your Integrated Assignment

(counting in all of your Learning Community J courses) and worth another 20% for Seminar. The final presentations will take place on Monday, April 23rd and Wednesday, April 25th.

Important Dates

Tuesday, January 23	Last day to register or add a class
March 12-16	Spring Break
Friday, April 6	Last day to drop a class
Thursday, April 26	First-Year Research Conference
Wednesday, May 2	Last day of classes
May 4-10	Final Examinations

Online Schedule

A detailed schedule for this course can be found at: <http://www.tamucc.edu/wiki/FirstLast/Spring2018ClassPlans>

Course Policies

Late Work

Any major assignment (such as a portfolio or paper or presentations) will 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.

Cell Phones & Other Technology

Please turn off your cell phones (or iPods, laptops, etc.), or turn them to silent, and put them away, before class begins, out of respect for your peers and me. I will try to remember to do the same!

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.

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 me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. 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 6th** 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/.