



RSP 400: Senior Seminar Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russell

Time & Location: Tuesdays 12:30-1:20 SS 313

Office & Phone: Prairie Crossing main office 903-468-3001

Office Hours: Normal business hours (appointment will be best)

E-mail Address: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Texts and Other Necessities:
No books required

Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:

Capstone experience for Regents' Scholars, the Senior Seminar affords students an opportunity for in-depth examination of global issues from a variety of perspectives. The course requires students to draw upon their leadership training, their coursework so far, and their experiences with other cultures to reexamine their own positions on topics of global interest.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

A. Attendance

You are not allowed more than ONE absence this semester. If you accumulate more than one absence, you will not receive credit for the class. Further, once here, please treat our speakers with the attention and courtesy that they deserve. **Please turn off all cell phones and do not engage in texting while in class.** During discussion weeks, students are expected to participate actively in what should be lively discussions and debates. Of course, all students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (see current Student's Guidebook).

B. Reaction Papers:

To gain credit for RSP 400, students are required to write reaction papers on TWO seminar presentations. We have set incremental due dates for the TWO papers, and students who miss a deadline will be allowed to submit a late paper for partial credit depending on the quality of the paper. Please be mindful of the deadlines to avoid a silly mistake and a reduction in grade. Additionally, students who do not submit BOTH papers on time CANNOT earn an A in the course, although simply submitting papers on time does not guarantee a grade of "A." Rather, a student must be sure to write a proper reaction paper that contains an intellectual reflection on what took place during the colloquia. That reflection in writing should go beyond being merely a series of notes you take and write up.

The paper may cover some of the following points:

- What was said that you agreed with?
- Or disagreed with?
- Can you connect an aspect of what you learned from the seminar session to another event you have read about or heard about or observed or even experienced in your own life?
- What interested you the most?
- Least?
- What would you have done or said differently?
- How did the presentation broaden your understanding of being a “global citizen” and how it means different things in different disciplines, sometimes positive and sometimes negative?

Obviously, you do not have to answer all of the above questions. Nor do you have to respond to any one of them. What your paper should show is your mind at work—much like a book critic or movie critic does when she or he writes a review. Length? I’d say two typed, double-spaced pages (around 500 words).

Please submit hard copies of your papers; no email attachments.

Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week of the original due date

C. Class Discussion

We will periodically have class discussions to debrief at regular intervals during our course. These sessions provide the opportunity to collectively share our reactions and discuss the topics raised by our speakers. Students are expected to attend these class periods and become active members of the conversation.

D. Letter to Freshman Assignment

Each speaker will highlight their own individual expertise and often draw upon life lessons that may be applicable to your own experiences. As you near the end of your college career, you have grown and developed an acumen for success. Pen a letter to an incoming freshman in the class of 2020. What lessons have you learned during your time in the Regents’ Scholars Program? at TAMU-C? in life? What advice would you give a brand new college freshman so they can maximize their college experience?

Please submit a hard copy of your letter; no email attachments.

Due Date: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on 4/5

Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week of the original due date

E. Grading Scale

Your grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

Attendance	15%
Class Discussion	25%
Letter to Freshman	20%
Reaction Papers	40% (2x20%)
	100%

Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance with the following levels of proficiency:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 65-69
- F = below 65

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Students will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare all assignments in the course.

Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you cannot see us during office hours, please send an email so that we can make an appointment with you. We are both quite happy to see students at any time as long as we do not have a prior commitment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Dropping the Course, & Classroom Decorum

Students have the option to drop this course at any time, but the Honors College Scholarship contract requires that students complete HC 400 as well as 15 hours each semester. Students who consider dropping the course **MUST** visit with either Dr. VR or Jennifer Hudson before initiating the drop process.

Finally, this class is designed to be an open forum for student comments, questions, and discussions. The speakers and your classmates may help you broaden your knowledge and perceptions, so please give them the respect they deserve. All students enrolled in the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See the Student Handbook.)

ADA Statement - 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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Statement on Nondiscrimination:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Date	Speaker	Department	Notes
1/17	Introductions/Overview		
1/24	Opening Presentation/discussion	Honors College	
1/31	TBD		
2/7	TBD		
2/14	Dr. Kathryn Dixon	Curriculum and Instruction	
2/21	Dr. Tim Letzring	Dean, College of Education and Human Services	
2/28	TBD		
3/7	Class Discussion Day		Reaction Paper #1 Due
3/14	Spring Break		
3/21	TBD		
3/28	TBD		
4/4	Dr. Maria Lamarque	Literature and Languages	Letter to Freshman Due
4/11	Closing Presentation/discussion		
4/18	Class Discussion Day		Reaction Paper #2 Due