
COMM 1101:009: First Year Seminar Syllabus (Fall 2014)

Thursday 9:30-10:20 a.m. BAB 303

Mr. Gregory M. Schwab, Professor of Theatre/Chair of Fine Arts and Communication

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Office Hours T & R 8:30-9 a.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m.; W 10 a.m.-noon or by arrangement

I. Mission:

The mission of First-Year Seminar is to provide first-year students an opportunity (1) to experience and develop knowledge, behaviors and attitudes that promote successful college study and positive campus participation, and (2) to appreciate multiple perspectives that reflect intellectual and cultural diversity within and beyond college.

II. Course Description:

First-Year Seminar is designed to help students develop strategies and skills necessary for a successful college career. Topics include adjusting to college, setting academic goals, managing time and keeping organized, learning and studying in college, preparing for and taking tests, understanding college policies and regulations, and accessing and using SRSU computer technology. Students will learn about SRSU's resources, activities, and rich cultural diversity. Throughout the course, students will use critical thinking skills to make informed choices, to understand their responsibilities for academic success, and to become independent, motivated learners.

III. Program Learning Objectives:

1. Involve students in applying personal and academic success strategies that advance college study and intellectual development.
2. Engage students in critical analysis and creative thinking.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Implement personal time management strategies based on short and long term goals.
2. Describe behaviors that support personal responsibility for learning, characteristics of an effective learner, techniques that promote student success and problem-solving of academic issues, and be able to discuss respect, civility, and academic integrity at SRSU.
3. Describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
4. Identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Banner.
5. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
6. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

V. Course Materials

- In-class lectures & demonstrations
- Out-of-class research
- BlackBoard 9 Access
- Sul Ross E-mail Address
- pen and paper (for note taking)
- planner (will be provided)

VI. Attendance & Class Participation

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. Please be proactive in informing the professor of any expected absences in advance in order to meet class requirements.

Attendance will be taken at each class; all unexcused absences and tardies will result in the

student's grade being affected. Any unexcused absence on the day that an assignment is due or a quiz or test given will result in the student receiving a "0" on the assignment/quiz/test. Excused absences will be granted in advance for authorized SRSU trips or functions; **illnesses will only be acceptable if the student submits a written doctor's medical excuse.**

Classmate: _____ Phone #: _____

Classmate: _____ Phone#: _____

10% of your final grade will be how effectively you participate in class discussions and assignments.

VII. Classroom Behaviors

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in class discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful of others by avoiding disruptive behaviors such as side conversations, cell phone use, arriving late, leaving early, etc.

VIII. Academic Honesty

“The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.”

--Excerpt from the Student Handbook

IX. Special Needs

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning challenge, please contact the ADA Coordinator Eleazar Cano in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor.

X. Late Work

All work and assignments must be turned in/presented on the designated day. All late work will be assessed a 25 pt. penalty for each day that it is late. Quizzes and tests must be taken on the day that they are scheduled or given. If the lateness is due to a doctor verified illness or is due to an official SRSU sponsored event, which is verified in writing from the sponsor/instructor of the event, then the penalty may be waived.

XI. Grade Breakdown:

LASSI completion and submission	10%
Attendance	30%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	35%
Participation	10%
Final Examination	15%

XII. Grading Scale:

90-100	=	A
80-89	=	B
70-79	=	C
60-69	=	D
Below 60	=	F

XIII. Extra Credit:

Extra credit points may be earned for participation in an SRSU theatrical production or attendance to an outside theatrical event. Points will be awarded on the basis of the level and effectiveness of the student's participation. Extra credit will not be given to a student who is getting course credit or pay for a theatrical position or assignment.

XIV. Final Examination: The final examination will be given on **Tuesday, December 9 at 8 a.m.**

XV. Tentative Weekly Schedule:

August 28	Course overview; syllabus; group activity
September 4	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions/Faculty Interview; Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
September 11	<u>Class will meet in Library classroom – 2nd floor of Wildenthal Library.</u> Library technology/E-mail/Blackboard/Banner Review
September 18	<u>Class will meet in Library classroom – 2nd floor of Wildenthal Library.</u> Library technology/E-mail/Blackboard/Banner Review; LASSI
September 25	Motivation/Goal Setting
October 2	Time Management/Planners Stress Management
October 9	Career Planning/Personality Types
October 16	Financial Aid/Money Matters
Oct. 10-11, 17-18	8:15 pm Studio Theatre Performances of <i>Moises: A Modern-Day Tragedy</i>
Oct. 12 & 19	2 pm Studio Theatre Matinees of <i>Moises: A Modern-Day Tragedy</i>
October 23	Information Literacy/Plagiarism
October 30	Advising/Registration
November 6	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents
November 13	SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences
Nov. 20-22	8:15 p.m. Studio Theatre Performances of <i>East 2nd Street</i>
November 20	Academic and Financial Aid Success
December 9	8 a.m. Final Examination