
COMM 1101:W01: First Year Seminar Syllabus (Fall 2014)

Web-based

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

Office: FAB 106

Telephone: 432-837-8039

gschwab@sulross.edu

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

- Out-of-class research
- BlackBoard 9 Access and assignments
- Sul Ross E-mail Address

VI. Attendance & Class Participation

As this is a web-based course, you will have a list of assignments to complete online or posted into Blackboard 9. You may work at your own pace on the successful completion of the assigned tasks. Once you have successfully completed all of them, you will receive a notice from the instructor as to that fact. All assignments must be completed by 5 p.m. on the last class day for the semester (Wednesday, December 3).

VII. Classroom Behaviors

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in appropriate Blackboard discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful of others by avoiding disruptive and inappropriate language or attitude. These behaviors will have a negative effect on your grade.

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 by Wednesday, December 3. Late work will not be accepted; unless 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 work may be accepted at the instructor’s discretion.

XI. Grade Breakdown:

LASSI completion and submission	10%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	50%
Participation in Blackboard discussions	20%
Final Examination	20%

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 available in Blackboard 9 by the third week of the semester.

XV. Course Modules: Modules must be completed in the order given; however, individual assignments within each module may be completed in any order. For example, all assignments in Module 1 must be completed before Module 2 will be available to the student.

Tentative Course Modules:

- Module 1:** Career Exploration: SIGI-3; Major Faculty Interview; Major Degree Plan
Module 2: Aptitude and Attitude: LASSI; Time Management; Online Counseling Services
Module 3: Sul Ross: Tutoring Services; Library Services; Lobo Traditions and History
Module 4: Academic Success: G.P.A.; Academic Holds; Financial Aid; Satisfactory
Academic Progress; Advising; Registration
Module 5: Final Examination