

First Year Seminar Spring 2015

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Office Hours: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday (additional hours available by appointment.)

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.

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.

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.

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 Lobo Online.
5. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
6. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

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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.

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.

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

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, Grace Duffy, in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor.

Late Work

Late work policy is determined by the professor.

Grade Breakdown:

LASSI completion and submission	10%
Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments	40%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	30%
Special Projects, Tests, and Final	20%

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Below 60 = F

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Weekly Schedule:

- 1/21/15 Intro to Syllabus/Campus Resources
BB Where do I find it?
- 1/28 Campus Tour
LASSI
- 2/4 Motivation & Goal Setting
BB Long Term and Short term goals
- 2/11 Time Management
BB Club Options
- 2/18 College Culture & Individual Responsibility
Interview with Professor
- 2/25 Faculty Expectations
Class summaries
- 3/4 Note-Taking & Study Skills
Exploring campus organizations
- 3/11 Club Reports
Roommate interview
- 3/25 Relationships
News article
- 4/1 Information Literacy
Jobs, grants, scholarships and loans
- 4/8 Money Matters
Personal Budget
- 4/15 SRSU Traditions
BB Homecoming events
- 4/22 Advising & Registration
- 4/29 Career Planning
- 5/6 Wrap up and final