

# First Year Seminar Fall 2015

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**NRM 1101**  
**Monday 12:00-12:50**  
**NRM 129**

**Instructor:** Mr. Chris Pipes

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**Phone:** 432-413-1554 (cell, ok to call or text)

**Office:** RAS 116

**Office hours:** Monday/Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:00, or 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. ***No cell phone use of any kind during class.***

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

## **Late Work**

Any assignment turned in late loses 20% of its potential value each day, beginning on the day when the assignment was due.

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## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### **Attendance & Participations**

A high degree of engagement is expected and will contribute to your learning as an active participant. This includes interacting with the speakers and other students, completing your degree plan and being prepared to participate in class discussions. This class is the beginning of your journey to becoming a professional. Evidence of professionalism includes attendance, collegial attitude, participation, and punctuality.

### **CSI Completion**

You will be required to complete the online College Student Inventory (CSI). We will do this as an in-class assignment during the second week (August 31st). You will then need to schedule a meeting with your Lobo Den advisor to go over the results. (This meeting would also be a good time to talk to them about your degree plan and get enrolled for spring 2016.) On November 16th, you will write a 2-paragraph reflection about the discussion of your CSI with your advisor. We will do this as an in-class assignment. (Artifact 2)

### **Attend 2 club meetings**

You will be required to attend two club meetings. You must get your attendance form signed by the president, one other officer, and one member. Also, you will need to write a two paragraph reflection paper over each meeting. One paragraph should give an explanation of what happened at the meeting, and the second paragraph should be a reflection of what you thought about the meeting. Your paper should be typed and double-spaced, margins no more than 1" and font no larger than 12 point.

### **Experiential Learning: Interview/Paper/Graphic Organizer/Presentation**

(1) You and your partner(s) conduct an interview with any of the following:

- Faculty member in your intended major/ field of interest
- Upper division student in your intended major/ field of interest
- Professional in a career that you may be interested in pursuing
- Graduate student in the same academic specialization
- Student from a diverse background, international or underrepresented groups, etc...

(2) ***Individually***, write a 2-page paper (typed, double-spaced, margins no more than 1" and font no larger than 12 point) detailing your findings. You may use any format you like as long as the reader can determine what you asked and what the response was from the person being interviewed and what you thought about what you discovered. For example, you could write it in the form of a newspaper article.

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(3) You and your partner(s) create a graphic organizer (mind map) and present it to the class. More instruction on this to follow. (Artifact 1)

The rubric by which your efforts on this Experiential Learning assignment will be assessed will be available on Blackboard.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Attendance and Participation in class	40%
CSI completion/2-page reflection	10%
Attendance at two club meetings/short papers	10%
Interview Paper	20%
Graphic Organizer/Presentation	20%

**Grading Scale:**

90-100 =A, 80-89 =B; 70-79 =C; 60-69 =D

(You can't make an "F" if you show up and if you do the assignments. You will be dropped for excessive absences.)

**Weekly Schedule (this is subject to change):**

Dates	Topics / Learning Experiences
Aug 24	Syllabus; Email/Blackboard/Banner; Introductions (if time)
Aug 31	<b>RAS 126: College Student Inventory (CSI)</b>
Sep 7	<b>Labor day--No class!!</b>
Sep 14	<b>RAS 130: Safety on Campus</b> (Guest Speaker, UDPS); Introduce Interview Assignment
Sep 21	<b>GC 129: Motivation/Goal Setting/College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences</b> - (Guest Speaker, Colin McDonald)
Sep 28	<b>Library 201: Library Services</b> (Amanda Gomez)
Oct 5	<b>Kokernot Lodge: Meet the ANRS Faculty</b>
Oct 12	Time Management and Student Responsibilities
Oct 19	<b>RAS 130: Career Services</b> (Guest Speaker, Jan Rueb)
Oct 26	<b>RAS 130: Counseling &amp; Accessibility Services</b> (Guest Speaker, Mary Schwartze)
Nov 2	Advising/Registration
Nov 9	Financial Aid/Money Matters
Nov 16	Career Opportunities – Graphic Organizer Presentation (Artifact 1)
Nov 23 (TG Week)	Make up Day ---If you haven't missed a class you will not need to attend.
Nov 30	Career Opportunities – Graphic Organizer Presentation (Artifact 1, cont.) <b>(2-page paper, proof of degree plan, and proof of club meeting attendance/2 papers, all due by this class period)</b>
<b>Final: W/Dec 9 12:30</b>	<b>RAS 126: 2-page reflection on CSI meeting with advisor, in class (Artifact 2)</b>

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## Proof of Club Meeting Attendance

Meeting of (what club):

Date:

Time in:

At time in, printed name of faculty member or club officer: \_\_\_\_\_

At time in, signature of faculty member of club officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Time out:

At time out, printed name of faculty member or club officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NOT the same person that signed at time in.)

At time out, printed name of faculty member or club officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of (what club):

Date:

Time in:

At time in, printed name of faculty member or club officer: \_\_\_\_\_

At time in, signature of faculty member of club officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Time out:

At time out, printed name of faculty member or club officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NOT the same person that signed at time in.)

At time out, printed name of faculty member or club officer: \_\_\_\_\_