

First Year Seminar Fall 2016

NRM 1101
Monday 12:00-12:50
Meets in RAS 128

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 may 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.

Primary 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.

Environment Conducive to Learning

Everyone has paid money to attend this class and expects a learning environment free from distraction. In order to maintain that environment, I have the right to enforce rules that prevent distractions. Failure to abide by these rules and to failure to refrain from any other distracting behavior may result in a loss of points for any infractions that occur during the class period in question. Basic rules include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. Gentlemen will remove hats in the classroom.
2. Use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPads, etc.) is prohibited. These must be off the desktop and out of your hands during class time.
3. Foul or offensive language or commentary of a sexual nature is prohibited.
4. Beverages are ok, but eating during class is prohibited.

E-mail

CHECK YOUR SUL ROSS E-MAIL AT LEAST ONCE PER DAY!!

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

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

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 & Participation (40% of grade)

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 & Journal Entry (30%)

You will be required to complete the online College Student Inventory (CSI). We will do this as an in-class assignment on Monday, September 19 in the computer lab (RAS 126). You will then need to schedule a meeting with your Lobo Den advisor to go over the results. (I'll let you know the dates they want you to do this.) Finally, once you've had the meeting, go to the journal section on Blackboard and write a paragraph or two about what you got out of the survey and the meeting.

Attend 2 club meetings & Journal Entries (10%)

You will be required to attend two club meetings and then go to the journal section of Blackboard and write about each meeting. At minimum, you should include what organization hosted the meeting, who ran it, where it was, what date, what times you arrived and left, and what was discussed. Basically, I need to be able to see that you did attend and that you paid attention. You can attend meetings of any relevant club including Range & Wildlife Management, Biology, Geology, etc., and both of your meetings can be of the same club (for example, two meetings of the Range & Wildlife Club).

Experiential Learning: Interview/Journal Entry/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 journal entry on Blackboard equivalent to a 2-page paper, detailing your findings. I need to be able to see what you asked, 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. **(10% of grade)**

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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. **(10% of grade)**

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/journal entry	30%
Attendance at two club meetings/2 journal entries	10%
Interview/journal entry	10%
Graphic Organizer Presentation	10%

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 22	Syllabus; Email/Blackboard/Banner; Introductions (if time)
Aug 29	Introduce each other and introduction of interview/paper/graphic organizer project
Sep 5	Labor day--No class!!
Sep 12	Kokernot Lodge: Meet the ANRS Faculty
Sep 19	RAS 126: College Student Inventory (CSI)
Sep 26	RAS 130: Safety on Campus (Guest Speaker, UDPS)
Oct 3	Continue discussion & work interview/paper/graphic organizer
Oct 10	Continue discussion & work interview/paper/graphic organizer
Oct 17	Time Management and Student Responsibilities
Oct 24	RAS 130: Counseling & Accessibility Services (Guest Speaker, Mary Schwartze)
Oct 31	RAS 130: Career Services & Advising/Registration (2 guest speakers)
Nov 7	RAS 130: Financial Aid (Guest speaker, Mickey Corbett)
Nov 14	Graphic Organizer Presentations
Nov 21 (TG Week)	Make up Day ---If you haven't missed a class you will not need to attend.
Nov 28	RAS 130: Presentation by an Agribusiness recruiter (Also due, 4 journal entries: CSI meeting; 2 club meetings; and interview paper)
Final: Tu/Dec 6, 12:30	RAS 126: journal entry, "What I got from this course..."

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Club Meeting Attendance

Meeting of (what club):

Date:

Time in:

Location:

Who's running this meeting? Name and if they are an officer, what office?

What's being discussed?

Time out:

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Checklist

- _____ Sent Mr. Pipes an e-mail from my SRSU account (preferred name, home town, what career you desire).

- _____ College Student Inventory (CSI) Survey Taken (September 19).
- _____ Met with Lobo Den advisor reference CSI Survey.
- _____ Wrote a paragraph or two about this meeting in the Blackboard journal.

- _____ Attended 1st meeting.
- _____ Wrote a couple of paragraphs in the Blackboard journal.
- _____ Attended 2nd meeting.
- _____ Wrote a couple of paragraphs in the Blackboard journal.

- _____ With group, interviewed a person of interest.
- _____ Individually, wrote the equivalent of a 2-page paper in the Blackboard journal.
- _____ With group, created graphic organizer (mind map).
- _____ Presented graphic organizer in class (on Nov. 14 or 21).