

# First Year Seminar - Fall 2016

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Sul Ross State University  
Alpine Texas

Department of Business Administration  
College of Professional Studies

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**SRSU 1101**  
**Fall 2016**  
**Section 1 – T 11:00 – 11:50**  
**BAB 317**

**Professor: Dr. William C. Green**  
**Office: BAB 316**  
**Office Phone: 837-8067; 8066 (sect.)**  
**wcgreen@sulross.edu**  
**Office Hours: By appointment and; TBA**

## **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.

## **All First Year Seminars Are Intended to Achieve The Following Common Goals:**

1. Expand and deepen students' understanding of the world and of themselves
2. Enhance their ability to read and think critically
3. Enhance their ability to communicate effectively, in writing, speech, and other appropriate forms
4. Develop the fundamentals of information literacy and library research
5. Provide the opportunity for students to work closely with a faculty mentor

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SACS Standards	El Camino Grant Objectives	Activity	Common Assessment
Technology (3.4.12)	(Activity #1) Develop a CDC Program	1) Conduct personal interview/ share findings/submit to BB	<b>Visual Mind Map/ Graphic Organizer with paper Artifact 1</b>  <b>Student Reflection Artifact 2</b>
Undergraduate Educational Programs (3.5.1 - 3.53)	b. FYS courses	2) CSI online activity/ findings discussed with Lobo Den Advisor	
Faculty (3.7.1-3.7.4)	c. ECFD Program		

### Attendance & Class Participation

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. See specifics on this in the course grade section.

### 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. See additional notes below.

### 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 the policy of Sul Ross State University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you wish to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning challenge, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Mary Schwartze, in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112, **432-837-8203**. All requests for accommodations must be relayed in writing to the professor.

### Late Work

Late work policy is determined by the professor.

### Grade Breakdown:

Attendance; Participation; Final; Other	50%
Career Interview/Presentation (Artifact #1)	20%
CSI Reflection Paper (Artifact #2)	<u>30%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:** 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; Below 60=F

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## **Attendance & Class Participation:**

This class is conducted on a lecture/discussion format (for the most part). You are urged to participate at your own initiative and determination of participation grades will be based upon both quantity and quality of comments. As you know, a necessary but not sufficient condition for participation to take place is your physical presence in class!! Thus, your attendance is at a premium and repeated absences from class can only hurt your class standing and not enable you to fully satisfy the course requirements. If you must miss class, please let me know before class begins. Note that we will have *in-class exercises and class discussion which require participation*. Thus, attendance and active participation are critical. Finally, if you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, please let me know as early as possible. I will work with you on fixing what is broken but ***I have no way of knowing this unless you tell me.***

## **Required Career Experience – Artifact #1**

Conduct an interview (activity) with any of the following (requires my approval):

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

## **Common Artifact #1 Components:**

- Student creates a graphic organizer from the interview notes
- Presents to the class
- Develops a two-page reflective paper from the interview and presentation
- Submits all to BB per instructor syllabus

## **Summary of Artifact #1**

We will discuss the fine print on this in class but everyone will be required to conduct an interview from among a choice of categories of individuals; Students will be expected to submit a one page, single spaced paper and make a presentation of the major findings from the interview. A graphic portrait of the findings will also be a requirement of this component. ***This is mandatory and represents a sizeable “chunk” of your grade. This is also a “group” activity!!***

## **Required College Student Inventory (CSI)/ Career Planning Activity - Artifact #2**

- Given online and TBD location by instructor. (Weeks 3-4)
- Lobo Den advisors discuss findings with students
- Student submits a quality reflection from the discussion to BB per instructor syllabus

## **Common Artifact #2 Components:**

- Take as assigned – no exceptions – must complete no later than week four (4)
- Must discuss findings with advisor
- Submit overview as per assigned (will cover in class)

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## **Black-Board (BB) and In-class Assignments:**

You will have the opportunity to apply some of the things you learn in class to various class assignments. These are a bit like "homework" but more involved and (hopefully) more motivating for you. The assignments do not require huge blocks of time but will not be completed successfully if you only attempt to "jump through the hoop." ***One requirement pertaining to all assignments is that they be submitted on or before the due date.*** We will discuss these components in more detail in class. But, one good piece of advice is this: prepare, complete assignments, homework and so forth on time and do so with "a positive attitude!"

## **Please read the following statements carefully:**

***This syllabus represents the plan of action for the course. It is, in many ways, a contract between us. Should you lose it, not understand any part of it, or most important, not agree with some component contained in it, please let me know and I will try to help fix the issue. Make sure to modify as needed. . Also, university policy allows for students who exceed the prescribed number of non-excused absences to be dropped from the course (at the discretion of the instructor).***

## **Other:**

***Some general considerations with respect to classroom behavior will be discussed once class begins. However, such behaviors will not be detailed on the syllabus as each course is unique and, in some cases, too many rules may serve to stifle the experience rather than enhance it!***

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## Tentative Course Outline

Week	Topic	Assignment*
Aug. 22	Introduction to Syllabus and Campus Resources	TBA**
29	E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review	
Sept. 05	<b><i>Labor Day Holiday – No Classes on Monday College Student Inventory (CSI) – Mandatory</i></b>	
12	SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences	TBA
19	Motivation/Goal Setting	TBA
26	Time Management/Stress Management	TBA
Oct. 03	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles	TBA
10	<b><i>Assessment Day</i></b> – where are we and where should we be Final Selection for Teams/Topics – Artifact #2	
17	<u>MIDTERM GRADES</u> - Student Organizations/SR Traditions	TBA
24	Relationships: Roommates, Dating,	Parents TBA
31	Information Literacy/Plagiarism	TBA
Nov. 07***	Financial Aid/Money Matters (see below)	TBA
14	Homecoming Week (Game: TBA)	TBA
21	<b><i>Experiential Interview Presentations Thanksgiving Holidays - 23 -27</i></b>	TBA
28	<b><i>Experiential Interview Presentations &amp; Wrap-up</i></b>	
Dec. 05	<b><i>Final Exam</i></b> – TBA @ 12:30 – 2:30PM	

\* Assignment should be completed by day assigned or at least during the week it's assigned

\*\* TBA = To Be Announced

\*\*\* Note: - November 11<sup>th</sup> - Last day to withdraw from university or drop with a "W"

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