

First Year Seminar Fall 2016



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALPINE | TEXAS

SRSU 1101 CRN#11943
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Office Hours: 8:30-11:30 am; 1:30-4:30 pm



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.

All First-Year Seminars have the same five 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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Activity	Common Assessment
1) Conduct personal interview/ share findings/submit to BB	Visual/Graphic Organizer with paper Artifact 1
2) CSI online activity/ findings discussed with Lobo Den Advisor	Student Reflection Artifact 2

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.

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

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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:

Late work is rarely accepted. Please avoid this option, as it will guarantee a reduction in points for the assignment. Work will not be accepted 2 weeks after the due date.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	30%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	20%
Experiential Learning – Interview & Findings	30%
CSI Reflection Paper	20%

Grading Scale:

90-100 =A
80-89 =B
70-79 =C
60-69 =D
Below 60=F

Intended Weekly Schedule:

Week		
1	Aug. 23 rd	Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources
2	Aug. 30 th	E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review
3	Sept. 6 th	(CSI will be given as a class activity/ assignment)
4	Sept. 13 th	Motivation/Goal Setting/College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences
5	Sept. 20 th	Time Management/Stress Management
6	Sept. 27 th	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
7	Oct. 4 th	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions (Homecoming Week)
8	Oct. 11 th	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents
9	Oct. 18 th	Information Literacy/Plagiarism
10	Oct. 25 th	Financial Aid/Money Matters
11	Nov. 1 st	Advising/Registration
12	Nov. 8 th	Career Planning
13	Nov. 15 th	<u>Experiential Learning Component Presentations</u>
14	Nov. 22 nd	<u>Experiential Learning Component Presentations</u>
15	Nov. 29 th	Last day of FYS.

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Important University Dates:

8/25	Last day to add a class to your schedule
9/7	Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
9/28	University “Meal on the Mall”
11/11	Last day to drop a course with a “W” (by 4pm)
11/23	Res halls close for Thanksgiving at 9am
11/30	Last class day before finals
12/1	“Dead Day”
12/2—12/7	Final Exams
12/9	Graduation begins at 7pm
12/10	Res halls close at Noon

Experiential Learning Required Activity/ Component

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

COMMON ARTIFACT:

- Student creates a graphic organizer (mind map) and develops a two-page paper from the interview
- Present to the class
- Submit to BB on appropriate date

College Student Inventory (CSI)/ Required Career Planning Activity

- Given online and TBD location by instructor. (Week two)
- Summary and findings discussed with students
- Students submit a reflection of discussion to BB