
COMM 1101:W01: First Year Seminar Syllabus (22911; Spring 2017) Web-based
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Office Hours (via Skype or by cell phone) M & W 8-10 am (CDT/CST) or by arrangement

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. Course Primary Learning Objectives: By the end of this course the student should be able to

1. Apply personal and academic success strategies that advance college study and intellectual development.
2. Engage in critical analysis and creative thinking.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes: The successful student will be able to

1. Implement personal time management strategies based on short and long term goals; (skills)
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; (knowledge, attitudes, skills)
3. Describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them; (knowledge)
4. Identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Banner; (knowledge and skills)
5. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond; (knowledge and skills) and
6. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community (attitudes or dispositions)

V. Course Materials

- Out-of-class research
- BlackBoard 9 Access and assignments
- Sul Ross E-mail Address

VI. Attendance & Class Participation

As this is a web-based course, you will have a list of assignments to complete online or posted into Blackboard 9. You may work at your own pace on the successful completion of the assigned course modules. Once you have successfully completed a module then the next module will be available to you. Once you have successfully completed all of them, you will receive a notice from the instructor as to that fact. **All assignments must be completed by midnight on Monday, May 8, 2017.**

VII. Classroom Behaviors

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in this course via Blackboard, the SRSU website, email, and or through Skype/phone discussions with the instructor; ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful and avoid disruptive and inappropriate language or attitude in your posts or assignments. These behaviors will have a negative effect on your grade.

VIII. 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

IX. Special Needs

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, who is located in FH 112 or call 432-837-8203. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor prior to the third class day.

X. Late Work

All work and assignments must be turned in/presented by Monday, May 8, 2017. Late work will not be accepted; unless the lateness is due to a doctor verified illness or is due to an official SRSU sponsored event, which is verified in writing from the sponsor/instructor of the event, then the work may be accepted at the instructor’s discretion.

XI. Grade Breakdown:

Homework and other Blackboard assignments	60%
Major Faculty Interview: Paper and Artifact	20%
Final Examination	20%

XII. Grading Scale:

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

XIII. Extra Credit:

Extra credit points may be earned for participation in an SRSU theatrical production or attendance to a theatrical event. Points will be awarded on the basis of the level and effectiveness of the student’s participation. Extra credit will not be given to a student who is getting course credit or pay for a theatrical position or assignment. In order to receive extra credit for attending a theatrical performance, the student must post into Blackboard a “copy” of your signed program (your name must appear on the cover) and a short (1-2 pages) response paper on the performance. The amount of extra credit will be dependent upon the completeness of the paper.

Extra credit may also be obtained for participation in or attendance of Sul Ross musical events, donation to the Sul Ross Blood Drive. Other opportunities may be approved by the instructor. All extra credit opportunities will need written verification of participation or attendance.

XIV. Final Examination: The final examination will be available in Blackboard 9 by the fourth week of the semester **and must be completed by midnight on May 8, 2017.**

XV. Course Modules: Modules must be completed in the order given; however, individual assignments within each module may be completed in any order. For example, all assignments in Module 1 must be completed before Module 2 will be available to the student.

Tentative Course Modules:

Module 1:	Time Management; Online Counseling Services
Module 2:	Major Faculty Interview: Paper and Artifact

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- Module 3:** Career Exploration: Purple Briefcase; Major Degree Plan
Module 4: Sul Ross: Tutoring Services; Library Services; Lobo Traditions and History
Module 5: Academic Success: G.P.A.; Academic Holds; Financial Aid; Satisfactory Academic Progress;
Advising; Registration
Module 6: Final Examination

SRSU Theatrical Production & Special Events Schedule:

March 25 & 31, April 1, 7 & 8	8:15 pm	Marshall Auditorium (MAB)	Performances of <i>Cabaret</i>
March 26, April 2 & 9	2 pm	Marshall Auditorium (MAB)	Matinees of <i>Cabaret</i>
To Be Announced		Studio Theatre (FAB)	Auditions for the One Acts
April 28 & 29	6 pm	Studio Theatre (FAB)	Performances of One Acts