

First Year Seminar Spring 2017



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALPINE | TEXAS

Instructor: Dr. Mark Saad Saka

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Office: LH 208

Office Hours: (for the FYS course) Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-11:45; Mondays and Wednesdays 1:50-3:00 and by appointment

Room: LH200 / Thursday/ 1:00-1:50

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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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.
1. Describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
2. Identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Lobo Online.
3. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
4. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.
5. Enjoy peer collaboration!

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. (No more than one unexcused absence without penalty.)**

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

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, Mary Schwartz) in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. (432.837.8691) All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to a professor.

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Late Work:

No late work accepted.

Grade Breakdown: (% varies with each instructor except *denoted)

Att. / Participation (In-class assignments; Mid-Term & Final grades) 75%
*Career Interview/presentation 25%

Grading Scale:

90-100 =A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

Week

- 1 1/19 – Class Introductions, Discuss Syllabus Expectations
- 2 1/26 – speaker from College Forward-Jonathan Herrera
- 3 2/02 – Shirin Remzi—motivational speaker
- 4 2/09- Career interview groups formed.
- 5 2/16-Career Interview results presented
- 6 2/23 – Career Interview results presented
- 7 3/02 – Science careers in the field-guest speaker-Perocco
- 8 3/09- open discussion—Life choices
- 9 3/16-spring break, no class
- 10 3/23- open discussion-degrees, careers and the game of life
- 11 3/30 - Financial Literacy/ Student Loans\$\$ – Guest Speaker (Financial Aid Personnel)
- 12 4/06 –The McNair-Tafoya Program-Dominique Vargas
- 13 4/13: *Last Day for students to drop with a “W” by 4pm*)
- 14 4/20-registration Issues-Lobo Den advisor
- 15 4/27 – financial literacy
- 16 5/04 – Final Exam-open discussion-whats on your mind?

Experiential Learning Theory - Active Participation

1. Learning is a process.
2. All learning is relearning and refining.
3. Learning requires resolution of conflicts and modes of adaptation to the world.
4. Learning is a holistic process of adaptation to the world
5. Learning results from synergetic transactions between persons and the environment.
6. Learning is a process of creating knowledge.

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Please return this page signed and dated to Dr. Saka on the second week of class.

I (Please print full name.) _____ have carefully read the entire FYS syllabus for Dr. Saka's class and have asked for clarification on any aspects of course requirements, policies, activities and assignments. I understand that I may continue to ask questions making it my responsibility to secure additional information I require to be successful this semester. I agree to follow the syllabus requirements and expectations.

Student's Signature

Date Signed

Instructor's Signature

Date Collected