

# First Year Seminar Fall 2017

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**Course:** SRSU 1101

**CRN:** 11937

**Section:** 003

**Instructor:** Dr. Kathy Stein

**Class Meeting Time:** W 2:00-2:50

**E-mail:** [kstein@sulross.edu](mailto:kstein@sulross.edu)

**Class Location:** FH 201

**Phone:** 432-837-8770

**Office:** FH 214B

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:00-1:50; or Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11:00 **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 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 Banner.
5. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
6. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

## **Course Materials**

BlackBoard Access; Office 365 Access; Sul Ross E-mail Address; writing materials; planner (will be provided)

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## **Attendance & Class Participation**

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. The only excused absences are those that result from representing the university at officially sanctioned and documented events. Should you have to miss a class your classmates are your first source of information about what happened in class and what goes in your class notebook. I take attendance via the assignment sheet; be sure to sign in every class period.

Classmate: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Classmate: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

## **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 in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor.

## **Late Work**

Turning in work late does not benefit you at all. In general, late work will not be accepted. All homework is due at the beginning of class unless I state otherwise. Should I decide to accept a major assignment late, then a penalty will probably be assigned depending upon the circumstances.

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## **Grade Breakdown:**

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### **Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments**      50% (500 possible points)

- In-class Notebook - 10% (100 possible points)
- Attendance – 10% (100 possible points)
- Participation/In-class Assignments – 30% (300 possible points)

### **Experiential Learning**

- CSI Reflection Paper (Artifact 1)      20% (200 possible points)
  - \* Completing CSI – 10% (100 points)
  - \* Paper – 10% (100 points)
- Career Interview (Artifact 2)      20% (100 possible points)
  - \* Paper – 10% (100 points)
  - \* Presentation – 5% (50 points)
  - \* BlackBoard Upload – 5% (50 points)

### **Final Exam**      10% (100 possible points)

## **GradingScale:**

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90%-100% = A	OR	900-1000 points = A
80%-89% = B		800-899 points = B
70%-79% = C		700-799 points = C
60%-69% = D		600-699 points = D
59% or lower = F		599 points or fewer = F

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## **Course Calendar**

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- 1) 8/30      Intro to Each Other and to the Syllabus; Note-Taking  
Assign: Course Notebook  
9/4      *Note: Labor Day/Monday – No Classes.*
- 2) 9/6      Campus Resources, BlackBoard Access, Office 365
- 3) 9/13      College Student Inventory (CSI); MLA Format  
Assign: CSI Reflection Paper (Artifact 2)
- 4) 9/20      Motivation/Goal Setting/SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities:  
Freedom, Benefits/Consequences  
Assign: Career Interview (Artifact 1)
- 5) 9/27      Time Management/Planners
- 6) 10/4      Campus Trek

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- 10/4 *Note: University as a Community Meal on the Mall*
- 7) 10/11 Information Literacy/Plagiarism (Meet in Library Classroom)
- 8) 10/18 Title IX  
**Due: Reflection Paper on Your CSI Results (Submit in BlackBoard/Artifact 1)**
- 9) 9) 10/25 Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions
- 10/25 *Mid-Term*
- 10/27-10/29 *Homecoming*
- 10) 11/01 Career Planning
- 11) 11/08 Financial Aid/Money Matters.  
Homework: Registration Exercise
- 12) 11/15 **Due: Experiential Learning: Career Interview Presentations (Submit in BlackBoard/Artifact 2)**
- 11/17 *Note: Last day for a student to drop a course with a "W" by 4:00 p.m.*
- 13) 11/22 *Thanksgiving Holiday – No class.*
- 14) 11/29 **Due: Experiential Learning: Career Interview Presentations**
- 15) 12/06 Final Exam Preparation.  
**Due: Course Notebook**
- 12/7 *Note: Dead Day - No class*
- 16) 12/12 (Tues.) **Final Exam: 3:00-5:00 p.m.**