

First Year Seminar Fall 2017



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALPINE | TEXAS

SRSU 1101 Sec 005 • CRN# 11940 • TUESDAYS 1pm • BAB 303

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Office Hours: TBA – usually by appointment. I’m all over campus most days, so appointments guarantee I can give you the time you need. Just send an email.

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. The student will be able to:

1. expand and deepen his/her understanding of the world and of self
2. enhance his/her ability to read and think critically
3. enhance his/her ability to communicate effectively, in writing, speech, and other appropriate forms
4. develop the fundamentals of information literacy and library research
5. 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.
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:

On time means five minutes early. Late is at the hour. Don't be late.

University policy is 9 absences for a 1-hour class or 6 for a 1:25 class equals an automatic drop with a grade of "F." In a 16-week semester, that's roughly 18% of the classes. (3 Classes * 16 weeks = 48 class meetings. 9 absences = .187 percent of 48). Using the same formula, 18% of our 16 classes = 2.88. In other words, three unexcused absences means you fail the class.

TL;DR: 3 unexcused absences means you're dropped with an "F."

Second, less draconian point: This class works best when you show up and participate. Which means talk. To me, and to each other. About the topic of the day. Your grade depends on it. You already have to be here – make it worth your while.

Classroom Behaviors:

My expectation is that you will behave as adults in a professional setting. I operate my class as a free speech zone, where everyone's thoughts and ideas are treated with equal respect and importance. Your classmates are your peers and therefore your equals. College is a privilege, not a right, and that privilege is yours to celebrate...or lose.

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. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Alpine, TX 79832. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Late Work:

Never accepted. Period. Make your word your bond, and deliver what you promise. In the world you'll encounter after graduation, late work gets you fired. The time and place to build your time management skills is here and now.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	50%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	25%
CSI Reflection Paper	25%

Grading Scale:

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

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Intended Weekly Schedule:

WEEK	ACTIVITY	TOPIC
1	Meet and Greet game.	Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources, Faculty Expectations. E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review.
2	Memory Game	SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences. TITLE IX
3	None	CSI
4	Hancock Hill Trails	Involvement
5	TBD	TBD
6	Improv Game BBB	Motivation/Goal Setting
7	Museum visit	Time Management/Stress Management
8	Paper Airplane Exercise	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles: LASSI
9	Archives of the Big Bend visit	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions = Homecoming Weekend 10/27-29
10	Life Story Game	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents
11	Music Game	Information Literacy/Plagiarism Think about Finals NOW.
12	TBD	Financial Aid/Money Matters
13	Present Careers	Advising/Registration
14	Present Careers	TBD
15	Present Careers	Career Planning

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Important University Dates:

8/31	Last day to add a class to your schedule
9/13	Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
10/4	University "Meal on the Mall"
11/17	Last day to drop a course with a "W" (by 4pm)
11/22	Res halls close for Thanksgiving at 9am
12/6	Last class day before finals
12/7	"Dead Day"
12/8, 11-13	Final Exams
12/15	Graduation begins at 7pm
12/16	Res halls close at Noon

College Student Inventory (CSI)/ Required Career Planning Activity

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