

First Year Seminar Fall 2017



SRSU 1101 CRN#
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Office Hours: by appointment only



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

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.

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Attendance & Class Participation:

A key element in the development of critical thinking and solid, educated opinions is involvement in discussion. Therefore, I expect all students to attend all classes and to participate actively in activities and discussion during every class session. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class, and unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your final grade. If you are involved in a university-sponsored activity that will result in a class absence, you must notify me BEFORE the approved absence to ensure that I can make the necessary accommodations. "Excused absences" are those that have approved documentation (e.g. certified doctor's excuses that specifically cite the class date, time, and reason for the missed day). With that said, DO NOT SCHEDULE DOCTOR, DENTIST, CHIROPRACTOR, OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF APPOINTMENTS DURING THIS CLASS.

Classroom Behaviors:

In order to create a classroom community that is conducive to open discussion, learning, and mutual respect, I expect that you arrive on time, refrain from using personal communication devices while in class, and stay for the entire class. I also expect that you treat everyone in the class with kindness and maturity.

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

Late Work:

Late work is rarely accepted, and you will usually receive a significant point reduction. If you miss an assignment and feel you have a valid reason, contact me as soon as possible so I may determine if an exception should be made.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	50%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	35%
CSI Reflection Paper	15%

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Grading Scale:

90-100 =A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60=F

Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/30	Intro to Course/Syllabus, Campus Resources
2	9/6	Email/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review
3	9/13	College Student Inventory (CSI)
4	9/20	College Culture/Student Responsibilities/Goal-setting
5	9/27	Time Management
6	10/4	Note Taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
7	10/11	Stress Management/Health/Wellness
8	10/18	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions
9	10/25	Title IX (Homecoming Week)
10	11/1	Information Literacy/Plagiarism
11	11/8	Advising & Registration
12	11/15	Financial Aid/Money Matters
13	11/22	No Class/Thanksgiving Holiday
14	11/29	Personality Types/Diversity
15	12/6	Career Planning
16		Exam Week

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	Residence 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

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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