

# First Year Seminar Fall 2017

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SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
ALPINE | TEXAS

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**SRSU 1101**                      **MAB 207, Monday 1:00 – 1:50 PM**  
**Instructor:**                      **Betsy Evans, MSIS**  
**E-mail:**                              **betsy.evans@sulross.edu**  
**Phone:**                              **837-432-8312**  
**Office:**                              **Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Room 107**  
**Office Hours:**                      **Stop by or make an appointment; I'm often in the Library**

## **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

# First Year Seminar Fall 2017

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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:**

Attendance and participation are very important to your success in this class and will be reflected in your grade. Think and plan ahead! Be proactive in informing the professor of any expected absences in advance in order to meet class requirements.

## **Classroom Behaviors:**

This course is improved greatly with your thoughtful engagement in class discussion, your questions and ideas. The number one rule of the classroom is to respect others. Avoid disrespectful behaviors such as blatant use of technology and plan to stay for the entire class period.

## **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.

Mailing address: PO Box C-122, Alpine, TX 79832

Email: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)

## **Late Work:**

Late work is rarely accepted. In the case that it is accepted, a reduction in points for the assignment will result.

# First Year Seminar Fall 2017

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## Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, Note-taking	30%
Office hours visit	10%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	20%
<b>Experiential Learning – Interview and Findings</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>CSI Reflection Paper</b>	<b>20%</b>

## Grading Scale:

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

## Intended Weekly Schedule:

We meet every Monday at 1 PM except for Labor Day, September 4

*Important University dates italicized below.*

Date	Topic	Notes
<b>August 28</b>	<b>First day / Syllabus day / Contract day</b>	
<i>August 31 = Last day to add a class to your schedule</i>		
<b>September 4</b>	<b>LABOR DAY – NO CLASS</b>	
<i>September 5 = Major Exploration Fair, 6:30 PM</i>		
<b>September 11</b>	<b>CSI given as a class activity</b>	<b>20% of grade!</b>
<i>September 13 = Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)</i>		
<b>September 18</b>	<b>Email, Blackboard, LoboOnline</b>	
<b>September 25</b>	<b>Title IX discussion</b>	
<b>October 2</b>	<b>SRSU Traditions and student orgs</b>	
<i>October 4 = University “Meal on the Mall”</i>		
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Information literacy, plagiarism</b>	<b>Meet in Library</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Financial Aid, money matters</b>	
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Career planning</b>	
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Note-taking, study skills, learning styles</b>	
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Time management, stress management</b>	
<b>November 13</b>	<b>College culture, student responsibilities</b>	
<i>November 17 = Last day to drop a course with a “W” (by 4 PM)</i>		
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Presentations / check-in</b>	
<i>November 22 = Lobo Village closes for Thanksgiving at 9 AM</i>		
<b>November 27</b>	<b>Presentations / check-in</b>	
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Hike Hancock Hill / TBD</b>	

# First Year Seminar Fall 2017

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<i>December 6 = Last class day before finals</i>
<i>December 7 = Dead Day</i>
<i>December 8 &amp; 11 – 13 = Final Exams</i>
<i>December 15 = Graduation begins at 7 PM</i>
<i>December 16 = Lobo Village closes at 12 NOON</i>

## **Assignments:**

*More assignment details will be given throughout the semester.*

### **Throughout the semester | 30% of grade**

- You must have a designated place – notebook, binder, etc. – where you write reflections / make plans / take notes from this class. You will hand it in to me every other week as part of your participation grade.
- Notes are kept confidential between instructor and student.

### **Office Hours Visit | 10% of grade**

- Visit me in my office at least once throughout the semester to chat about an assignment or whatever is on your mind

### **Experiential Learning – Interview and Findings | 20% of grade**

- Conduct an interview with a faculty member, an upper division student or a professional in a field of interest
- Take notes, create an artifact to represent those notes, and write a paper based on the interview and other research
- Submit findings to Bb on a TBD date
- Present findings to the class near the end of the semester

### **September 11 | College Student Inventory (CSI) | 20% of grade**

- 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 Blackboard