

First Year Seminar Fall 2017



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALPINE | TEXAS

SRSU 1101:14//CRN#11977

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Office Hours:

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:

Attendance and punctuality is crucial. This class begins at 10:00 a.m., not 10:05 and it ends at 10:50, not 10:40. Plan on getting here on time and not leaving early. You are also expected to participate in class discussion and not sitting there like a bump on a log and reading your smart phones.

Classroom Behaviors:

No cell phones, smart phones, or electronic chips previously implanted in your brains will be allowed. Please respect your fellow student's opinions and ideas. Do not leave class early or go to the restroom unless an emergence. You can sit down for 50 minutes.

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

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Late Work:

No late work, without clear and serious causes will be accepted.

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

Intended Weekly Schedule:

Week

- 1 **Aug. 28**-introduction to class/syllabus/College Culture/Student responsibilities/Faculty Expectations.
- 2 **Sept. 04**-no class/Labor Day
- 3 **Sept. 11**-CSI
- 4 **Sept. 18**-Sul Ross services-clubs, and traditions/Time Management and Stress Management/Backwards Planning
- 5 **Sept. 25**-Sul Ross email/blackboard, and online issues/services/information literacy and plagiarism
- 6 **Oct. 02**-Title IX
- 7 **Oct. 09**-Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
- 8 **Oct. 16**-Go over CSI results
- 9 **Oct. 23**—organize groups for academic/professional interviews
- 10 **Oct. 30**-group presentations of academic/professional careers and planning
- 11 **Nov. 06**—guest speaker—Dominique Vargas of the McNair-Tafoya Scholarship Program
- 12 **Nov. 13**- group presentations of academic/professional careers and planning
- 13 **Nov. 20**-financial planning for life/retirement/insurance/etc.
- 14 **Nov. 27**-Financial Aid issues/college debt issues
- 15 **Dec. 4**-last class day=wrap up semester

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)

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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