

SRSU 1101-014: First Year Seminar Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Angela Brown

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Office Hours: 10-12 and 2-4 M, 11am-12pm W, 3:30-5pm TR, others by appointment

Time and Location of Class Meeting: 10-10:50 BAB 302

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; Sul Ross E-mail Address; Paper and Pen/Pencil; Planner (will be provided)

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Attendance & Class Participation

Students are expected to attend every class. If class must be missed, the student is expected to get the notes from a classmate, and to check with me or on Blackboard for announcements and updated assignments.

Students are expected

perpetually late, they will be asked to not attend class unless they can arrive on time. If tardiness becomes a problem for the class as a whole, people who arrive late will not be permitted to enter the class. If this stricter policy becomes necessary, there will be an announcement made in class.

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. Any absences for school related activities must be relayed to me as early as possible so this absence does not count against you. You can be dropped with a grade of "F" after 3 unexcused absences.

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

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. As an instructor I am required to give students reasonable accommodations in each course. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Contact Mary Schwartz, the ADA Coordinator in Counseling and Accessibility Services Ferguson Hall, Room 112. Her phone number is 432-837-8203 or you can email her at mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Late Work

Late work will only be accepted up the Friday after the assignment is due. It will be a 30 point deduction for any assignment not turned in on time.

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Grade Breakdown:

CSI Completion, Submission, and Reflection Paper	20%
Attendance, Participation, and In-class Assignments	20%
Interview, Mindmap, Summary Review	30%
Homework and Other Blackboard Assignments	20%
Final	10%

GradingScale: A-90%-100%, B-80%-89%, C-70%-79%, D-60%-69%, F-59% or lower

Important Dates:

Aug 22	First Day of Classes
Aug 25	Last Day for Late Registration and Schedule Changes
Sept 5	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 7	12th Class Day-Last Day to Drop a Course Without Creating an Academic Record
Nov 11	Last Day to Withdrawal from University or Drop Classes with a Grade of "W"
Nov 23-25	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 2-7	Final Exams

Tentative Course Schedule

1-8/24	Introductions, Syllabus, Campus Resources
2-8/31	E-mail/Blackboard/Banner Review and CSI assignment
3-9/7	SRSU College Culture: Student Responsibilities and Faculty Expectations
4-9/14	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles & Interview assignment
5-9/21	Time Management
6-9/28	Motivation/Goal Setting
7-10/5	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions
8-10/12	Information Literacy/Plagiarism
9-10/19	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents; Title IX
10-10/26	Advising/Registration and Mindmap Due
11-11/2	Financial Aid/Money Matters
12-11/9	Career Planning
13-11/16	Stress Management, Interview Summary Report Due, and Interview Presentations
14-11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class
15-11/30	Interview Presentations and Final Exam Prep
16-12/2	Final Exam Friday Dec 2 nd at 10:15 AM