

First Year Seminar – SRSU 1101 (Section 3)

CRN#	11845
Instructor:	Alicia M. Trotman, Ph.D.
E-mail:	alicia.trotman@sulross.edu
Phone:	432-837-8147
Office:	LH 306
Office Hours:	Mondays (12:00 to 1:30pm) Wednesdays (9:45 to 10:45am & 12:30 to 1:30pm) Thursdays (12:30 to 2:00pm)

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.

Attendance & Class Participation:

You are expected to be on time for each class session and you should be actively involved. *Active involvement includes prompt and regular attendance, active listening, writing, participating via an online poll or quiz, engaging in discussions, volunteering or doodling.* Early departure or late arrival for class (more than 15 minutes) on a weekly basis will lower your participation grade. If you repeatedly leave early or are late to class (**more than twice**), this will be counted as one absence and may result in a failing grade for the course. Besides attendance, all other forms of participation judged subjectively by me that showcases active involvement will increase your participation grade.

Attendance – Class attendance is governed by the SRSU policy stated in the schedule of classes. If you are unable to attend a class session, please discuss the reason with me and arrange with another student to obtain any notes, handouts or assignments you may have missed. Excused absences entail established religious observance, or providing emergency, university-authorized, legal or medical documentation. Excessive unexcused absences (more than 2 missed class sessions) will result in a failing grade for the course.

Cell Phone and Computer Use - During the entire class period, you should be fully engaged in the day's activity. Laptop computers or tablets are welcomed at every class meeting for the academic purposes of note taking or following along with the instructor's lesson. Inappropriate computer usage (e.g. checking your e-mail, using instant messaging, accessing Facebook, etc.) or off-topic activity (e.g., reading the newspaper, cell phone use) is highly discouraged and very disrespectful to the instructor and your peers. Please be advised that computer or cell phone use not pertaining to the class activity or discussion will be noted and result in being marked "absent" for the day.

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. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the [SRSU Student Handbook](#) and procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the [Scholastic Dishonesty Policy](#).

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:

You are expected to meet assignment/checklist deadlines. Checklists submitted *after their due dates* will be marked as zero. Late assignments or projects will be reduced by 10% of the overall assignment for the first day of lateness and additional 40% for lateness beyond that for unexcused absences. For excused absences (university-authorized, legal or medical issues), speak with me **before the absence** so arrangements can be made.

Grade Breakdown:

Grading:	1000 points total	Final Grade
Attendance & Participation	200 points	20%
In-class assignments	10 x (10 points)	10%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	10 x (30 points)	30%
Service Learning Project	200 points	20%
CSI Reflection Paper	200 points	20%

Grading Scale:

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

Course Outline

(This schedule and the topics listed below are subject to modification by the instructor.)

Day	Content
August 28th (MARS)	Introductions – Who are you? Icebreaker - Personal Validation
Homework	<i>Learning more about me... Why am I here?</i>
September 4th (MERCURY)	Email/Blackboard/Lobo Online
Homework	<i>How do I communicate with faculty and my peers?</i>
September 11th (URANUS)	College Student Inventory (CSI)
Homework	<i>Is college for you?</i>
September 18th (SATURN)	Feeling Safe on Campus (Discussion about Title IX)
Homework	<i>Do I feel safe?</i>
September 25th (JUPITER)	College Culture / Student Responsibilities
Homework	<i>How do I get involved? How do I participate? Should I speak up?</i>
October 2nd (VENUS)	Student Organizations / SRSU Traditions / SRSU Campus
Homework	<i>Go Sul Ross!!! Go Lobos!!!</i>
October 9th (NEPTUNE)	Note-Taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
Homework	<i>What is my learning style? How should I study?</i>
October 16th (CERES)	Information Literacy / Plagiarism
Homework	<i>Why should I love my own work? So much so that I don't steal from others?</i>
October 23rd (ERIS)	Service Learning Project Day (<i>The Friendship House</i>)
Homework	<i>How do I help people in the Alpine community?</i>
October 30th (HALLOWEEN)	Time Management/Stress Management
Homework	<i>How can I calm down? Can I be in more control of my time?</i>
November 6th (SUN)	Self-Efficacy, Personal Meaning & Purpose
Homework	<i>Am I good enough?</i>
November 13th (MOON)	Note-Taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles

Homework	<i>Now I know my learning style, how can I optimize my study skills?</i>
November 20th (THANKSGIVING)	Financial Aid / Money Matters
Homework	<i>How can I save more money on campus? What should I spend money on?</i>
November 27th (EARTH)	Career Planning
Homework	<i>Do I like my major? Is there a class I want to take? Is there a career I have in mind?</i>
December 4th (HOLIDAY)	Time Management/Stress Management
Homework	<i>I need to calm down for FINALS!</i>

Service Learning Project Details:

This project will entail volunteering at *The Friendship House*. This is a non-profit organization that serves meals to the elderly living in Alpine and surrounding areas. We will all help the organizers with cooking and serving a meal on a designated date in late October. Further details about this project will be provided in September.

Important University Dates:

- 8/30 Last day to add a class to your schedule
- 9/12 Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
- 9/27 University “Meal on the Mall”
- 11/16 Last day to drop a course with a “W” (by 4pm)
- 11/21 Res halls close for Thanksgiving at 9am
- 12/5 Last class day before finals
- 12/6 “Dead Day”
- 12/7, 10-12 Final Exams
- 12/14 Graduation begins at 7pm
- 12/14 Res halls close at Noon