

# First Year Seminar Fall 2018

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**SRSU 1101-004 (CRN# 11846)**

**Location: MAB 204**

**E-mail: [abrown4@sulross.edu](mailto:abrown4@sulross.edu)**

**Office: ACR 107B**

**Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWR, 3:30-4:30 MTWR, others by appointment**

**Instructor: Dr. Angela M. Brown**

**Time: Tuesdays 10:00-10:50 am**

**Phone: 432-837-8223**

## **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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## **Course Materials**

Students are expected to have access and use Blackboard 9 on the web, as well as to come to class prepared to take notes that can be turned in (paper and pen/pencil). The use of laptops and tablets will be allowed as long as they are used for class activities.

**Attendance & Class Participation:** Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. According to SRSU policy, any student missing 20% of a class (3 classes), will be dropped with an F. As this course is largely based on participation, missing class is the fastest way to fail. If you must miss a class, please inform me by email, phone or in person within 24 hours of the missed class with a valid excused reason for the absence. Otherwise, absences will count as 0's for all missed work on that day and makeup opportunities will not be allowed. Additionally, participation is critical for this course, so students are expected to interact in class. Sleeping in class, chair warming, and merely breathing does not constitute participation, and such behavior will count as being absent that day.

**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. We will discuss this in more detail in the semester when we cover this topic.

## **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](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)

**Late Work:** Late work will be accepted but will be an automatic 30 points deducted.

## **Grade Breakdown:**

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	30%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	20%
Service Learning Project	20%
CSI Reflection Paper	20%
Final Exam	10%

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## **Grading Scale:**

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

## **Intended Weekly Schedule:**

1-8/28            Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources  
2-9/4             E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online and CSI on-line assignment  
3-9/11            SRSU College Culture: Student Responsibilities and Faculty Expectations    4-  
9/19              Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles  
5-9/25            Time Management  
6-10/2            Motivation/Goal Setting  
7-10/9            Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions  
8-10/16           Information Literacy/Plagiarism  
9-10/23           Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents and Title IX  
10-10/30           Advising/Registration  
11-11/6           Financial Aid/Money Matters  
12-11/12           Career Planning  
13-11/20           TBD  
14-11/27           Stress Management and CSI Reflection Report Due  
15-12/4           Final Exam Prep  
16-12/7           Final Exam Monday Dec 10 8:00-10:00 am

## **Service Learning Project Details:**

We will be going out to the recycling center at least two days to help with projects as needed. These dates will be set for the class at a later time. You will be doing a write up of your experiences at the recycling center as part of your grade.

## **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