



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
Alpine, Texas

SRSU 1101	Lawrence Hall 200, Friday, 10 AM to 10:50 AM
Instructor	Betsy Evans, MSIS
Email	<u>betsy.evans@sulross.edu</u>
Phone	432-837-8312
Office	Sul Ross Library, Room 107 (BWML 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

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 Accommodation:

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students requiring accommodation. If you would like to make a request, 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

Late Work:

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

Grade Breakdown:

Participation: attendance, presentation, writing	40%
Final paper	30%
College Student Inventory	30%

Grading Scale:

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

Intended Weekly Schedule:

We meet every Friday at 10 AM except for the first day of class and scheduled holidays.

How This Class Works:

Beginning September 7, we will begin each class with free writing reflection on a particular topic. This writing is intended to help you set goals for the class and to pave the way for discussion during lecture. We will spend much of our time together writing, discussing and presenting. We will become very familiar with one another!

We have several specific topics that we need to cover together, and we will also take a few fieldtrips (see below). Your participation in the class writing assignments and discussions will account for a large portion of the grade.

You will complete a reflection paper that will be a culmination of much of the discussion and presentation we share in class. Your attendance and participation is crucial to an A in the course.

please note that class meets in the Library about half of the time

Required Supplies:

Please bring a writing implement and dedicated notebook to every class. All written assignments will be kept by you in a notebook and turned in to me. All writing will be kept confidential between professor and student; presentation of ideas will be required, but there is no requirement to present everything you have written in your private reflections.

Service Learning Project (late October):

All of us are required to be involved in a service learning project in the City of Alpine. I am excited that we will work with the Hal Flanders Recycling Center near campus to aid in the beautification of Alpine. We will make more concrete plans as a group to ensure everyone's involvement.

Hiking Hancock Hill:

We will tentatively hike up to Hancock Hill near the end of the semester, weather permitting.

Weekly Schedule:

August 31	Syllabus day – meet on Blackboard (There is homework!!)	
September 7	College culture, student responsibilities	
September 14	College Student Inventory day	Meet in Library 201
September 21	Title IX discussion	
September 28	Discussion of final paper assignment Attend STEM Friday	Meet in Library 201
October 5	Time management, stress management	
October 12	Tech basics – Bb, email, Office 365, Library	Meet in Library 201
October 19	Note-taking, study skills, learning styles	
October 26	Career-planning and goal-setting Attend STEM Friday	Meet in Library 201
October 27/TBD	Service Project @ Hal Flanders Recycling Center	Meet @ Recycling Center
November 2	Hike Hancock Hill / TBD	
November 9	Final presentations	
November 16	Final presentations	
November 23	***Holiday – no class***	
November 30	Last class day – What did we learn? Attend STEM Friday	Meet in Library 201