

First Year Seminar Fall 2018



SRSU 1101 CRN# 12063

Class Location & Time: Tuesdays, MAB 302

Instructor: Theron Francis

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Office: MAB (Morelock) 112C

Office Hours: MTWT 10-12:30 am

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,
- 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:

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. Please be proactive in informing the professor of any expected absences in advance in order to meet class requirements. Attendance is 50% of the course grade or 500 points total. Students earn 35 points for each day they attend; conversely, they lose 35 points for each day they miss. (No more than one unexcused absence without penalty.)

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, and leaving early.

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

Grade Breakdown:

I.	Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	30%
II.	Team profile of SRSU community group, a presentation	20%
III.	Service Learning Project	20%
IV.	CSI Reflection Paper	30%

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I. Attendance

300 points

Attendance will be taken through roll calls, fast essays submitted to BB, surveys and other means. Students may miss only one class without penalty. If there are 15 meetings, then attendance at each class is worth 20 points.

II. Profile of a Sul Ross Community Group – team presentation

200 points Presentations on day of class

In a team of three students, interview the three members of a segment of the SR community, such as

- Librarians
- Faculty
- Seniors
- Student Government members
- Staff/Administrators
- Alumni
- Graduate students

Ask them about their goals, what they do, their career, and how they fit into the larger SR community. Then prepare a PowerPoint for the last day of class on what characterizes the group you spoke with. Grades will be based both on the presentation and peer evaluations.

III. Service Learning Project

200 points

Help Karen Little and her assistants and researchers maintain the university gardens. Maintaining the gardens will acquaint you with environment of the Big Bend, other living things among us, the students, faculty and staff of biological science, and our own grounds. We may be able to plant trees, which we can look on after years have passed.

IV. CSI Report

300 points Due October 30

On the third week of class, students will take the College Student Inventory online through Blackboard. After taking the inventory, meet with a Lobo Den advisor to discuss the results. Then write a two-page paper reflecting on the survey's results. In addition to discussing the survey results, discuss your goals at Sul Ross and your strategies to achieve those goals.

- 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

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Grading Scale:

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

Intended Weekly Schedule:

Week	Date	Activity
1	8.28	Introductions: College Culture and Student Responsibilities.
2	9.4	Blackboard/OneDrive/Office Suite Tools
3	9.11	CSI
4	9.18	Student Organizations/Internships/Employment (Jan Rueb and Leaders of Organizations related to majors)
5	9.25	Financial Skills (Michael Corbett, Director of Financial Aid)
6	10.2	Counseling, Accessibility and Health: Time Management/Stress Management (SRSU counsellor)
7	10.9 morning	Writing: Plagiarism and Judging Academic Sources Planning the Team Project and Service Learning Project
8	10.16	Service Learning Project Maintain campus garden with Karen Little
9	10.23	Advising and Registration
10	10.30	Complete CSI Reflective Paper in Class CSI Paper Due
11	11.6	Study Skills/Learning Styles
12	11.13 morning	Service Learning II: Planting a tree
13	11.20	Title IX Orientation
14	11.27	Prepare Presentations
15	12.4	Last Day of Class: Presentations Presentations Due
16		Final Exam: additional presentations

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