

First Year Seminar Fall 2018

SRSU 1101 Web-format
Instructor: Jessica Velasco, MS Ed.
E-mail: jvel3108@sulross.edu
Phone: 432-837-8742
Office Location: LH 203



Office Hours: MWF 10-11:30 a.m. or by appointment

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:

As this is a web-based course, you will have a list of assignments to complete posted into Blackboard. All assignments have due dates, but you may work ahead. Since all assignments are available to you from the beginning, no late work will be accepted.

First Year Seminar Fall 2018

Although you are not required to attend a physical class, you are required to check and respond to your university email and Blackboard messages in a timely manner. You should get in the habit of checking at least once a day. Also, please post all non-personal questions to the discussion board questions forum so that other students may see my answers.

Classroom Behaviors:

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in this course via Blackboard, the SRSU website, email, and or through phone discussions with the instructor; ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful and avoid disruptive and inappropriate language or attitude in your posts or assignments. These behaviors will have a negative effect on your grade.

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

Late Work:

All work and assignments must be turned in by due dates specified on the syllabus and Blackboard. You have an assignment due every one to two weeks. Late work will not be accepted; unless the lateness is due to a doctor verified illness or is due to an official SRSU sponsored event, which is verified in writing from the sponsor/instructor of the event, then the work may be accepted at the instructor’s discretion.

Grade Breakdown:

(RP= Reflection Paper)

Introduction post	50 points	Grading Scale:
Video 1 Discussion post	50 points	900-1000 points: A
Weekly Schedule	50 points	800-899 points: B
Time management RP	100 points	700-799 points: C
Campus Involvement	100 points	600-699 points: D
Learning style RP	100 points	Below 600: F
Financial Matters post	100 points	
Tribe post	100 points	
Career Meeting/Module	200 points	
Degree Plan	100 points	
Title IX statement	50 points	
Total	1000 points	

First Year Seminar Fall 2018

Course Assignments and Due Dates:

Since this is an online class, you will be relying heavily on Blackboard for all course information. In the course Blackboard page, you will notice there are several tabs for this course. Although you need to actually go to the course webpage to access the course materials, a description of each tab and what you will find, as well as the assignment due dates are below. PLEASE NOTE: For each tab, you are to read/view/complete all areas included in that tab. Also, I have listed the tabs in the order you see them in Blackboard, so the due dates are not exactly in chronological order. You may review the materials and complete the assignments in whatever order you like. However, please be aware of posted due dates.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

Announcements

This is where I will post any important announcements for the course.

Syllabus

The course syllabus will be posted here all semester for your reference.

Academic Calendar

This links you directly to the academic calendar for SRSU. There are many dates on there that will not apply to you, but you will want to review it for the dates that do so you can add them to your personal calendar or phone.

Discussion Board

This is where you will find four discussion boards. Three of these (Introduction, Video 1 Discussion, and Financial Matters) are graded discussions. There is also a question forum, where you can post any questions you have about the course so I can respond and all students may benefit.

Introduction Post: Due August 31 by 8 a.m.

Video 1 Discussion Post: Due Sept. 7 by 8 a.m.

Financial Matters Post: October 12, by 8 a.m.

Time Management

This link includes a tab for you to complete a weekly schedule, a video about procrastination to watch (you'll enjoy it), and a link for a reflection paper.

Weekly Schedule & Reflection Paper: September 21 by 8 a.m.

Campus Involvement

This includes 6 links with 6 different campus involvement opportunities. You are to choose FOUR of these to do and post a picture in the appropriate link.

You will need to do these throughout the semester, but they are all due by Dec. 5, 8 a.m.

Title IX

If you have not completed Title IX training (or are not sure), you will need to watch the short video included in this tab, as well as submit a statement through the link provided that states you have viewed the video.

Due: October 19, 8 a.m.

Learning Style

First Year Seminar Fall 2018

In this tab, you will find the learning style inventory, a video on note-taking styles, a video about plagiarism, and a link for a reflection paper. You will complete the learning style inventory (you will need to print it out to do it), watch the video, and then write the paper.

Due: October 5, 8 a.m.

Financial Matters

For this topic, you will do the self-quiz that is provided through the link. There is not a grade for this quiz, but you will need to take it and then review the answers/responses document I have provided. After you have completed these items, you will post to the discussion board a question that you still have about financial matters (one that has not been answered in my document).

Discussion board post due: October 12, 8 a.m.

Forming your tribe

You will read the information posted in this tab and then write a reflection paper which addresses the questions provided.

Due date: October 26, 8 a.m.

Career Exploration

In this area, you will complete two assessments. For Sigi3, the first one, I have provided the link. For the MBTI, you will get an email from Jan Rueb in Career Services soon. Please make sure to check your university email for this! You will then need to schedule a meeting with Jan to discuss your results. **While you are there**, have her take a picture of you with your MBTI results. Post this to the link provided to get your points for this area.

Due date: November 16, 8 a.m. (but do NOT wait until the last minute to schedule your meeting!)

Degree Plan

This is simple and straightforward—you just need to post a copy of your degree plan and transcript.

Due date: November 30, 8 a.m.

My Grades

These are your grades for the course.

I look forward to a great semester with all of you!
You can all EARN an A. Just stay on top of your work!

Mrs. V.