

First Year Seminar Spring 2019



SRSU 1101 CRN# 11854

Instructor: Deborah Tout

E-mail: dtout@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8048

Office: Lawrence Hall Room 213F

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2 to 5, 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

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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. As this course is largely based on participation, attending class regularly is the best way to earn a good grade. 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 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.

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, arriving late, leaving early, etc. Cell phones must be turned off during class. If you need to keep your cell phone on because you expect an urgent phone call, discuss this with me before class begins.

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

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Late Work:

In general, late work will not be accepted. Should I decide to accept an assignment late, I may penalize you with a lower grade, depending upon the circumstances.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments	45 points (3 per class)
Reflection Paper	45 points (3 per assignment)
Service Learning Project	10 points

Grading Scale:

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

Reflection Paper

Each week, you will have the same homework assignment. Write a one-page, double-spaced paper (12 point font, 1-inch margins) reflecting on your week. You may write about any topic you like; I want to see that you are thinking about and learning from your experiences. I promise not to judge your experiences; instead I will grade you on the depth of self-reflection I see in your writing. If you have difficulty thinking about topics, consider answering some of these questions:

- What's the best thing that happened this week?
- What's the worst thing that happened this week?
- What problems/challenges did I encounter this week? How did I resolve them?
- What's my favorite class? Why?
- What are my career goals? Are they changing as I learn more?
- Who is the most interesting person I met this week?
- What did I learn this week?
- What do I miss most about home?

Intended Weekly Schedule:

Week

- 1 January 24 Introductions/Syllabus Review**
Group introductions, expectations for the course, review of the syllabus.
- 2 January 31 Email/Blackboard/LoboOnLine/Degree Works**

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You will use these tools every semester, so early familiarity will help you succeed as a student.

- 3 February 7 Career Planning**
What are your career goals? What can you do right now to help you achieve them?
- 4 February 14 Career Planning, Continued**
- 5 February 21 Title IX**
Title IX is a federal law that addresses both discrimination and sexual misconduct.
- 6 February 28 Stress Management**
Managing your stress will improve your Sul Ross experience.
- 7 March 7 Information Literacy/Plagiarism**
We will meet in the library foyer for a tour.
- 8 March 14 Motivation/ Time Management**
Finding and nurturing your motivation is the first key to success in anything. Everyone has 24 hours per day, no more and no less, for all of their interests, activities and responsibilities. How can you make the best use of your time?
- March 21 No class**
Enjoy your spring break!
- 9 March 28 Note Taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles**
Learn the most effective ways to learn.
- Saturday, March 30 Service Learning Project**
- 10 April 4 Financial Aid/Money Matters**
If you don't successfully manage your money, you will never get rich!
- 12 April 11 College Culture/Student Responsibilities**
What is College Culture? How is college different from high school? What are your responsibilities as a college student?
- 13 April 18 Diversity and Inclusion**
College is a great opportunity to meet a wide variety of people.
- 14 April 25 Student Organizations/SRSU Traditions**
Do you belong to any student organizations? Have you participated in any traditions? These things can make college a lot more fun.

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15 May 2 **Class Review/Wrap Up**

Service Learning Project Details:

The Service Learning Project is critical component of this class. We will meet at the Lobo Den on Saturday morning before heading out to do community service in the city. Lunch will be provided after we finish. I will provide more details on Blackboard.

Important University Dates:

1/22	Last day to add a class to your schedule
2/6	Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
3/18-22	Spring Break
4/4	University "Meal on the Mall"
4/12	Last day to drop a course with a "W" (by 4pm)
5/8	Last class day before finals
5/9	"Dead Day"
5/10. 13-15	Final Exams
5/17	Graduation begins at 7pm
5/17	Res halls close at Noon