

First Year Seminar - Fall 2019

Sul Ross State University
Alpine Texas

Department of Business Administration
College of Education & Professional Studies

SRSU 1101
Fall 2019
Section 1 – W 10:00 – 10:50
BAB 318

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Office Hours: By appointment and; TBA

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.

Program Learning Objectives:

1. Involve students in applying personal and academic success strategies that advance college study and intellectual development.
2. Engage students in critical analysis and creative thinking.

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.

All First Year Seminars Are Intended to Achieve The Following Common Goals:

1. Expand and deepen students' understanding of the world and of themselves
2. Enhance their ability to read and think critically
3. Enhance their ability to communicate effectively, in writing, speech, and other appropriate forms
4. Develop the fundamentals of information literacy and library research
5. Provide the opportunity for students to work closely with a faculty mentor

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Attendance & Class Participation

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. See specifics on this in the course grade section.

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. See additional notes below.

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

Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Office of Student Support Services, Ferguson Hall Room 112, Box C-117, Alpine, Texas 79832 (915) 837-8203.

Late Work

Late work policy is determined by the professor. We will determine this as class gets started.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance;	20%
Participation	20%
Black-Board Assignments	20%
CSI Completion	30%
CSI Reflection Paper (Artifact #2)	<u>10%</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>

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

Attendance & Class Participation:

This class is conducted on a lecture/discussion format (for the most part). You are urged to participate at your own initiative and determination of participation grades will be based upon both quantity and quality of comments. As you know, a necessary but not sufficient condition for participation to take place is your physical presence in class!! Thus, your attendance is at a premium and repeated absences from class can only hurt your class standing and not enable you to fully satisfy the course requirements. If you must miss class, please let me know before class begins. Note that we will have ***in-class exercises and class discussion which require participation***. Thus, attendance and active participation are critical. Finally, if you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, please let me know as early as possible. I will work with you on fixing what is broken but ***I have no way of knowing this unless you tell me***.

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Black-Board (BB) and In-class Assignments:

You will have the opportunity to apply some of the things you learn in class to various class assignments. These are a bit like "homework" but more involved and (hopefully) more motivating for you. The assignments do not require huge blocks of time but will not be completed successfully if you only attempt to "jump through the hoop." ***One requirement pertaining to all assignments is that they be submitted on or before the due date.*** We will discuss these components in more detail in class. But, one good piece of advice is this: prepare, complete assignments, homework and so forth on time and do so with "a positive attitude!"

Required College Student Inventory (CSI)/ Career Planning Activity

- Given online and TBD location by instructor. (Weeks 3-4)
- Lobo Den advisors discuss findings with students
- Student submits a quality reflection from the discussion to BB per instructor syllabus

Common Components:

- Take as assigned – no exceptions – must complete no later than week four (4)
- Must discuss findings with advisor
- Submit overview as per assigned (will cover in class)

Please read the following statements carefully:

This syllabus represents the plan of action for the course. It is, in many ways, a contract between us. Should you lose it, not understand any part of it, or most important, not agree with some component contained in it, please let me know and I will try to help fix the issue. Make sure to modify as needed. . Also, university policy allows for students who exceed the prescribed number of non-excused absences to be dropped from the course (at the discretion of the instructor).

Other:

Some general considerations with respect to classroom behavior will be discussed once class begins. However, such behaviors will not be detailed on the syllabus as each course is unique and, in some cases, too many rules may serve to stifle the experience rather than enhance it!

Other:

My personal position on dishonesty is as follows: if I suspect that there is even a hint or any probability (greater than 0.0), that anyone in the course is violating the policy on academic honesty (plagiarism, copying without appropriate credit, using the work of other students - even with their permission, cheating) I will take the following steps. I will take every means possible to ensure that such individual does not pass the class; and I will apprise the Head of Student Affairs; College Dean; Provost and others in an attempt to have the individual dropped from the BBA program. Very simply, this is college and should be approached as such. That is, you get out of college, in large part, based on what you put into it. That is what I think is the college "mindset." Finally, do not take this personally – this is only to make certain that my position is clear and there is no confusion as to what it is!

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Tentative Course Outline

Week	Topic	Assignment*
Aug. 26	Introduction to Syllabus and Campus Resources E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review	TBA**
Sept. 02	SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences <i>Labor Day Holiday – No Classes on Monday</i>	TBA
09	<i>College Student Inventory (CSI) – <u>Mandatory</u></i>	
16	Motivation/Goal Setting Title IX – Video	TBA
23	Time Management/Stress Management	TBA
30	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles	TBA
Oct. 07	<i>Assessment Day</i> – where are we and where should we be Final Selection for Teams/Topics – Artifact #2	
14	<u>MIDTERM GRADES</u> - Student Organizations/SR Traditions	TBA
21	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents	TBA
28	Information Literacy/Plagiarism	TBA
Nov. 04	Financial Aid/Money Matters (see below)	TBA
11***	Career Planning Homecoming Week – Game – TBA	TBA
18	Remaining Topics	TBA
25	Continued <i>Thanksgiving Holidays – 27 - 29</i>	
Dec. 02	Wrap-up	
09	<i>Final Exam</i> – TBA @ 10:00 – 12:00PM	

* Assignment should be completed by day assigned or at least during the week it's assigned

** TBA = To Be Announced

*** Note: - November 15th - Last day to withdraw from university or drop with a "W"