
First Year Seminar Fall 2019



SRSU 1101 CRN# 10010

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Office Hours: 8:30-9:30am (Monday-Thursday) 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. Please be proactive in informing the professor of any expected absences in advance in order to meet class requirements.

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.

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:

Late work is rarely accepted. Please avoid this option, as it will guarantee a reduction in points for the assignment. Work will not be accepted 2 weeks after the due date.

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Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	40%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	20%
Service Learning Projects	20%
CSI Reflection Paper	20%

Grading Scale:

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

Intended Weekly Topic Schedule:

1	Aug 28	Intro to Syllabus, E-mail, Blackboard, Lobo Online
Update your contact info in Lobo Online. Submit a statement on BB explaining that you have completed the task, with your current phone contact information.		
2	Sept 4	Campus Resources/Sul Ross Traditions
Write two (2) paragraphs for each of two resources from the BB list that you intend to use while at Sul Ross (Four [4] paragraphs total). You should explain the resources and how you will take advantage of their offerings. Submit on BB.		
Don't forget Service Learning Projects! Group Paper: Partner with one or two others to write a two-page paper about your experience in the project. See BB for details of the assignment.		
3	Sept 11	CSI
Class CSI assignment major component of grade! Reflection paper to follow in late October/early November.		
4	Sept 18	Goal-setting, College Culture / Student Responsibilities
Personal 10 Commandments Assignment: See details in BB.		
5	Sept 25	Time Management, Stress Management
Update your planner: a planner will be provided or you can use your own. Details in BB.		
6	Oct 2	Note-taking, Study Skills, Escape Room at Library
Theory to Practice Note-taking Style: prepare and submit notes via one of the suggested styles in class.		
7	Oct 9	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Title IX
Boundaries Assignment: One page paper about what Boundaries mean to you (based on class discussion, as well).		
8	Oct 16	Student Organizations (Homecoming!)
Assignment TBD		
9	Oct 23	Information Literacy, Appropriate Citations, Plagiarism (meet at Library)

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As always, class time participation is important!

10 Oct 30 Advising/Registration

Bring a copy of your pre-planned schedule from Schedule Planner.

11 Nov 6 TBD

CSI Results paper due: Review results with Lobo Den before writing.

12 Nov 13 Financial Aid/Money Matters

Use the website given in class. When finished, email the professor with what "occurred."

13 Nov 20 Career Planning

Holiday! Happy Thanksgiving! Be Safe!

14 Nov 27 University Holiday

Option to replace lowest daily grade: details on BB

15 Dec 4 TBD

Final Exam: Friday, December 6th at 12:30pm

Service Learning Project Details!:

Alpine Animal Shelter! Date TBD. We will join together to volunteer as a group at the Alpine Animal Shelter on Old Marathon Hwy (road across from Gallego Center). Needs we'll serve: walking dogs, cleaning pens, petting cats, bathing animals, organizing donated items, washing linens, etc.

Important University Dates:

8/29 Last day to add a class to your schedule
9/11 Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
9/27 University "Meal on the Mall"
11/15 Last day to drop a course with a "W" (by 4pm)
11/27 Res halls close for Thanksgiving at 9am
12/4 Last class day before finals
12/5 "Dead Day"
12/6, 9-11 Final Exams
12/13 Res halls close at Noon
12/13 Graduation begins at 7pm