

Sul Ross State University
First-Year Seminar-(SRSU 1101-013)
Fall 2019

Professor: Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, D.M.A.

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Office: Fine Arts Building 202

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Class Meetings: Thursdays 1:00-1:50 p.m., Lawrence Hall 200

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:45-10:45 a.m.; Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.;
Fridays-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

Class Attendance and Participation

- Excused absences:
 - Absences will be excused for medical emergencies or serious personal conflicts only **but immediate communication** with the professor about this is **required**.
- Unexcused absences:
 - University policy states that students with **three** unexcused absences will fail the class.
- Tardies:
 - Be five minutes early. Arriving on time is actually **late**. This is a good exercise for later in life when you could lose your job for being late!

Classroom Behaviors

Our classroom is a safe place to openly express your beliefs, ask questions, and share ideas. Please be respectful of others' opinions and thoughts and avoid disruptive behavior such as arriving late, using your cell phone during class, 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."-from the Student Handbook

Special Needs

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartze@sulross.edu.

Late Work

Late work will **only** be accepted in the event of an excused absence. Absolutely no assignments will be accepted 2 weeks after the due date.

Grade Breakdown

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Attendance, participation, in-class assignments	40%
2. Homework and Blackboard assignments	25%
3. Service Learning Project	20%
3. CSI Reflection Paper	15%

Grading Scale

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

Professional Communication Policy

- All communication with me should be done in person, by office phone, or through email.
- You are expected to check your email and Blackboard **DAILY** for updates and information for this course.

Intended Weekly Topic Schedule (Subject to change)

1. Week of August 26

Intro to Syllabus; Email, Lobo Online, Blackboard, Campus resources

2. Week of September 2

College culture/Student responsibilities

3. Week of September 9

CSI

4. Week of September 16

Stress management/Time management

5. Week of September 23

Library Day—meet at Wildenthal Library Note-taking/Study skills/Learning strategies

6. Week of September 30

Financial Aid/Money management

7. Week of October 7

Motivation and Goal-Setting

8. Week of October 14

Student organizations/SRSU Traditions

9. Week of October 21

Roommates, Relationships, Title IX

10. Week of October 28

Advising/Registration

11. Week of November 4
Career planning

12. Week of November 11
Information literacy, plagiarism/academic integrity

13. Week of November 18
TBD

14. Week of November 25
No class, Thanksgiving Break

15. Week of December 2
No class, Thursday is “Dead Day”

17. Week of December 9, finals

Important University Dates

8/29	Last day to add classes and make schedule changes
9/11	Last day to drop classes (without it counting against you)
9/27	University “Meal on Mall”
11/11	Veterans Day holiday, no classes
11/15	Last day to drop classes with a grade of “W”
11/27	Res halls close for Thanksgiving (at 9:00 a.m.)
11/27-29	Thanksgiving holiday, no classes
12/4	Last day of classes before finals
12/5	“Dead Day”
12/6; 9-11	Final Exams
12/13	Residence halls close at noon SRSU Fall Graduation (Alpine campus), 7:00 p.m.

College Student Inventory (CSI)/Required Career Planning Activity

Given online and TBD location by instructor.
Summary and findings discussed with students in the Lobo Den.
Students submit a reflection of discussion to BB.

Service Learning Project

Our class service learning project will be with the Alpine Public Library. More details will be provided on this soon, but there will be two opportunities during the semester to volunteer at the library. You must do **one** of these days in order to earn the 20% credit for it in your final grade.