

**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR – SRSU 1101 (SECTION 17)  
FALL 2019**

*Instructor:* Dr Crystal Kelehear Graham, Assistant Professor  
*Office:* WSB 220, *Phone:* 432-837-8820, *E-mail:* crystal.graham@sulross.edu  
*Office Hours:* *M:* 10:00-10:30 | *Tu:* 12:30-14:00 | *W:* 10:00-10:30, 13:30-14:30 |  
*Th:* 13:00-14:00 | *F:* 10:00-10:30 | & by appointment

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Lecture: Monday 13:30-14:20 | WSB 201

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 Banner.
5. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
6. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

Course Materials: There is no textbook for this class. Student are expected to use Blackboard on the web, as well as to come to class prepared to take notes that can be turned in (paper and pen). The use of laptops and tablets is permitted as long as they are used for class activities.

Attendance & Class Participation: Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. According to SRSU policy, any student missing 20% of a class (3 classes), will be dropped with an F. As this course is largely based on participation, missing class is the fastest way to fail. 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 excused 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. Students cannot miss exams, students missing any exam without notifying their instructor at least 24 hours in advance will receive a zero for that exam grade. If the reason for missing an exam adheres to the university excused absences policy (a documented family or health emergency) the student may arrange with their instructor to take a makeup exam within seven days (including weekends) of the original exam date. If the student fails to appear (on time) for the makeup exam the student will receive a zero for that exam.

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. We will discuss this in more detail in the semester when we cover this topic.

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, Mary Schwartz, in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor.

Late Work: Late work reflects poorly on you to your professor and would be very detrimental to your career if you missed deadlines for an employer. To encourage a good work ethic any work submitted late (either in person or on Blackboard) will not be accepted unless there is a valid excuse for it being late.

Grade Breakdown:

**I. Attendance, Participation, In-class Assignments & Quizzes 40% (200 points):** Attendance at each class period is worth 10 points. The remaining points will come from in class assignments and quizzes.

**II. CSI Completion and Reflection Paper 20% (100 points): Due December 2, 2019.** On the third week of class, students will take the College Student Inventory online through Blackboard. After taking the inventory, meet with a Lobo Den advisor to discuss the results. Then write a two-page paper reflecting on the survey's results, discussing your goals at SRSU and outlining your strategies to achieve those goals.

**III. Homework Assignments 20% (100 points):** There will be numerous homework assignments to complete and submit through Blackboard.

**IV. Service Learning Project 10% (50 points):** Each semester the Lobo Pack gives back to Alpine by engaging in a number of community service projects. This semester, our service learning project will involve going out to the Hal Flanders Recycling Center to help with projects as needed. Actual dates for this project will be set during class based on student availabilities. You will be doing a write up of your experiences at the recycling center as part of your grade.

**V. Final Exam 10% (50 points):** There will be a final exam held during exam week (**3PM on December 10, 2019**).

Grading: A 90 – 100% B 80 – 89% C 70 – 79% D 60 – 69% F 0 – 59%

Class schedule (subject to change):

	Date	Topic
<i>Week 1</i>		
Lecture 1	Monday, August 26	Course Intro/Syllabus/Campus Resources
<i>Week 2</i>		
<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>Monday, September 2</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday – No Class</b>
<i>Week 3</i>		
Lecture 2	Monday, September 9	E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online and CSI on-line assignment
<i>Week 4</i>		
Lecture 3	Monday, September 16	SRSU College Culture: Student Responsibilities and Faculty Expectations
<i>Week 5</i>		
Lecture 4	Monday, September 23	Student Organizations/SRSU Traditions
<i>Week 6</i>		
Lecture 5	Monday, September 30	Relationships/Title IX
<i>Week 7</i>		
Lecture 6	Monday, October 7	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
<i>Week 8</i>		
Lecture 7	Monday, October 14	Information Literacy/Plagiarism
<i>Week 9</i>		
Lecture 8	Monday, October 21	Time Management/Planners
<i>Week 10</i>		
Lecture 9	Monday, October 28	Motivation/Goal Setting/Career Planning

<i>Week 11</i>		
Lecture 10	Monday, November 4	Advising/Registration
<i>Week 12</i>		
<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>Monday, November 11</b>	<b>Veteran's Day Holiday – No Class</b>
<i>Week 13</i>		
Lecture 11	Monday, November 18	Financial Aid/Money Matters
<i>Week 14</i>		
Lecture 12	Monday, November 25	Hancock Hill
<i>Week 15</i>		
Lecture 13	Monday, December 2	Stress Management and CSI Reflection Report Due
<i>Week 16</i>		
<b>EXAM</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 10</b>	<b>Final Exam (3 pm)</b>

Note – Lecture topics are subject to change according to course interest, organization, and timing constraints

### Important Fall Dates:

- August 29 • Last day for late registration and schedule changes
- September 2 • Labor Day holiday, no classes
- September 11 • Last day to drop a 16 week term course without creating an academic record
- September 27 • University as a Community Meal on the Mall (Lawrence Sullivan Ross's birthday)
- November 11 • Veterans Day holiday, no classes
- November 12 • Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences
- November 15 • Last day to withdraw from the 16 week course/term with a grade of 'W'. Drops must be in the University Registrar's office by 4 p.m.  
• Last day to apply for May graduation without a late fee
- November 27-29 • Thanksgiving Day holiday (Begins after the last scheduled class meets on Tuesday, November 26)
- December 4 • Last class day before finals
- December 5 • Dead Day, No Classes
- December 6, 9-11 • Final Examinations
- December 13 • Fall Commencement, Pete P. Gallego Center, 7 p.m.  
• Residence Halls Close at noon