

# First Year Seminar Spring 2020

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**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
ALPINE | TEXAS

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**SRSU 1101 CRN# 21609**

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**Office: Student Life, UC 211**

**Office Hours: 8:30-11:30am; 1:30-4:30pm M-F**

## **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: [counseling@sulross.edu](mailto:counseling@sulross.edu).

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## **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.

## **Grade Breakdown:**

Attendance, Participation	30%
In-Class Assignments, Homework and other Blackboard assignments	40%
<b>Career Exploration Project</b>	<b>30%</b>

## **Grading Scale:**

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

## **Intended Weekly Schedule:**

Week		
1	Jan 15	Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources
2	Jan 22	E-mail, Blackboard, Lobo Online
3	Jan 29	Motivation/Goal Setting/ Introduce Career Exp. Project
4	Feb 5	College Culture / Student Responsibilities
5	Feb 12	Time Management, Stress Management
6	Feb 19	Note-taking, Study Skills, Learning Styles
7	Feb 26	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents
8	Mar 4	Information Literacy, Plagiarism (meet at Library)
9	Mar 18	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions
10	Mar 25	Advising/Registration
11	Apr 1	Career Planning / CE Presentations
12	Apr 8	Financial Aid/Money Matters / CE Presentations
13	Apr 15	CE Presentations
14	Apr 22	Finish CE Presentations
15	Apr 29	

## **Important University Dates:**

Jan 16	Last day to add a class to your schedule
Jan 29	Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
Mar 9-13	Spring Break

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Apr 3	University “Meal on the Mall”
Apr 3	Last day to drop a course with a “W” (by 4pm)
Apr 29	Last class day before finals
Apr 30	“Dead Day”
May 1, 4-6	Final Exams
May 8	Graduation begins at 7pm
May 8	Res halls close at Noon

- **Career Exploration Project**

1. Interview someone in your chosen field (must be graduate student or working professional).
2. Submit 2 page paper over the experience, what you learned, and how it has impacted your decision to pursue this career.
3. Prepare a brief presentation with visual aids about the experience.