

First Year Seminar Spring 2020

Course: SRSU 1101/W01/21611 (Web-format)

Professor: Dr. Kathy Stein

E-mail: kstein@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8770

Office Location: FH 214B

Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
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

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.

First Year Seminar Spring 2020

Attendance & Class Participation:

As this is a web-based course, you will have a list of assignments to complete posted into Blackboard. All assignments have due dates, but you may work ahead. Late work will be accepted, but points will be deducted. **The final deadline for all assignment submissions and campus involvement points is April 29, 2020, at 5 p.m.**

Although you are not required to attend a physical class, you are required to check and respond to your university email and Blackboard messages in a timely manner. **All students should log into the course on Blackboard at least once a week.** Also, please post all non-personal questions to the discussion board questions forum so that other students may see my answers.

Classroom Behaviors:

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in this course via Blackboard, the SRSU website, email, and or through phone discussions with the instructor. Feel free to ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful and avoid disruptive and inappropriate language or attitude in your posts or assignments. Such behaviors would have a negative effect on your grade.

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. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Alpine, TX 79832. The phone number is 432-837-8691

Blackboard Tabs:

Announcements

This is where I will post any important announcements for the course.

Syllabus

The course syllabus will be posted here all semester for your reference.

My Grades

As soon as I upload your grade for an assignment, it will appear in this section of Blackboard.

Academic Calendar

This links you directly to the academic calendar for SRSU. There are many dates on there that will not apply to you, but you will want to review it for the dates that do so you can add them to your personal calendar or phone.

First Year Seminar Spring 2020

Discussion Board

This is where you will find three discussion boards. Two of these (Introduction and Financial Matters) are graded discussions. There is also a question forum, where you can post any questions you have about the course so I can respond and all students may benefit.

Campus Involvement

This includes 5 links with 5 different campus involvement opportunities:

1. **Meet with me during the first two weeks of class!** – This is a mandatory meeting. It is best if you make an appointment to visit with me: kstein@sulross.edu or 432-837-8770.
2. Hike to the Desk
3. Attend a Sporting Event
4. Go to a Campus Event
5. Check a Book Out of the Library

You must complete #1 and two of the remaining four opportunities. However, if you complete all four of the remaining activities, then two of them will count as extra credit opportunities. You will receive credit for these activities when you submit a photo of you participating in the event in the links provided.

Kognito At-Risk Training

For this topic, you will complete the module that is provided through the link. After you have completed the module, take a screen shot of your completion certificate and submit it.

Financial Matters

For this topic, you will do the self-quiz that is provided through the link. There is not a grade for this quiz, but you will need to take it and then review the answers/responses document I have provided. After you have completed these items, you will post to the discussion board a question that you still have about financial matters (one that has not been answered in my document). Be sure to use good grammar.

Title IX

You will need to watch the short video included in this tab. You will then submit a statement through the link provided that states you have viewed the video.

Time Management

This link includes a tab for you to complete a weekly schedule and a video about procrastination to watch (you'll enjoy it). You should have zero hours remaining for every day of the week.

Learning Style

In this tab, you will find the learning style inventory, a video on note-taking styles, a video about plagiarism, and a link for a reflection paper. You will complete the learning style inventory (you will need to print it out to do it), watch the video, and then write a short one to two page paper that consists of more than one paragraph. Use good grammar.

Degree Plan

This is simple and straightforward—you just need to post a copy of your degree plan and transcript.

Forming Your Tribe

You will read the information posted in this tab and then write a reflection paper that addresses the questions provided. Be sure to use good grammar. Your paper should be one to two pages long and consist of more than one paragraph.

Career Exploration

Take the MBTI assessment and watch the video. In an email, send me your MBTI results.

First Year Seminar Spring 2020

Student Organization Report

You will attend a meeting of a student club or organization. You can find a listing of current clubs and organizations by going to

https://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/images/uc_srsu/2019-20_registered_student_organizations.pdf.

Library Orientation

You will open the file in Blackboard, go to the Library, and then send me an email with your answers.

Goal Setting Activity

Open the worksheet in Blackboard, complete it, submit your file.

Registration Activity

Go to the Lobo Den (Library first floor) and meet with an advisor to register for next semester. Take a selfie with your advisor and submit your picture.

Email

You can use this to email me and/or other students in the class.

Help

This link leads you to commonly occurring issues that students have with Blackboard. Tim Parsons is your Blackboard contact. His number is 432-837-8523.

First Year Seminar Spring 2020

Course Assignments and Due Dates

Since this is an online class, you will be relying heavily on Blackboard for all course information. In the course Blackboard page, you will notice there are several tabs for this course. Although you need to actually go to the course webpage to access the course materials, a description of each tab and what you will find, as well as the assignment due dates, are below.

PLEASE NOTE: For each tab, you are to read/view/complete all areas included in that tab. I have listed the tabs in the order you see them in Blackboard, and they all have associated due dates. You may review the materials and complete the assignments in whatever order you like. However, please be aware of posted due dates to avoid loss of points. **ALSO, ALL STUDENTS MUST MEET WITH ME DURING THE FIRST 2 WEEKS OF CLASS.**

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

Assignments and Due Dates

Due Date	Assignment
Week One	
January 13, 2020	First Day of Classes
January 17, 2020	Introduction Post
Week Two	
January 20, 2020	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 24, 2020	Meeting with Dr. Stein
(First two weeks of classes)	
Week Three	
January 31, 2020	Kognito At-Risk Training
Week Four	
February 7, 2020	Financial Matters Post
Week Five	
February 14, 2020	Title IX Completion
Week Six	
February 21, 2020	Time Management Module
Week Seven	
February 28, 2020	Learning Style - Reflection Paper
Week Eight	
March 6, 2020	Degree Plan
March 9-13, 2020	Spring Break
Week Nine	
March 20, 2020	Forming Your Tribe – Reflection Paper
Week Ten	
March 27, 2020	Career Exploration Module
Week Eleven	
April 3, 2020	Student Organization Report
Week Twelve	
April 9, 2020	Library Orientation Activity
April 10, 2020	Good Friday Holiday
Week Thirteen	

First Year Seminar Spring 2020

April 17, 2020 Week Fourteen	Goal Setting Activity
April 24, 2020 Week Fifteen	Registration Activity
April 29, 2020 Week Sixteen	Campus Involvement Activities
May 1, 4-6, 2020	Final Exams

Grade Breakdown:

Activity	Possible Points	Earned Points
Introduction Post	50 points	_____
Meet with Dr. Stein	50 points	_____
Kognito At-Risk Training	100 points	_____
Financial Matters Post	50 points	_____
Title IX Statement	50 points	_____
Time Management Activity	50 points	_____
Learning Style Reflection Paper	100 points	_____
Degree Plan	50 points	_____
Tribe Reflection Paper	100 points	_____
Career Exploration Activity	50 points	_____
Student Organization Report	100 points	_____
Library Orientation	50 points	_____
Goal Setting Activity	50 points	_____
Registration Activity	100 points	_____
Campus Involvement Activities (must complete at least two)		
Hike to the Desk	25 points	_____
Attend a Sporting Event	25 points	_____
Go to a Campus Event	25 points	_____
Check a Book Out of the Library	25 points	_____
 Total	 1000 points	 _____