

First Year Seminar Fall 2020



SRSU 1101-006

Location: ACR 203

E-mail: abrown4@sulross.edu

Office: ACR 107B

Office Hours: 9:30-11:00 M, 10-11 and 2-3 W 3:30-5:00 T, others by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Angela M. Brown

Time: Wednesdays 9:00-9:50 am

Phone: 432-837-8223

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.

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

Course Materials: Student are expected to have access and use Blackboard 9 on the web, as well as to come to class prepared to take notes that can be turned in (paper and pen/pencil). The use of laptops and tablets will be allowed 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. Additionally, participation is critical for this course, so students are expected to interact in class. Sleeping in class, chair warming, and merely breathing does not constitute participation, and such behavior will count as being absence that day.

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

Americans With Disabilities Act: Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

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Library Services: The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web- based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Covid-19 Policies: A mask must be worn at all times while in public spaces indoors or outdoors. This mask must cover your mouth and nose. Students not wearing a mask will be required to leave class for the day and can be reported to the Dean of Student Life. If you are sick or have been around someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, do not attend class in person. This course has an attached zoom section that you can attend. Other policies will be attached as a separate document.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted but will be an automatic 30 points deducted.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments, Quizzes	40%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	35%
Final Exam	15%

Grading Scale:

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

1-8/26	Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources
2-9/2	E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online and CSI on-line assignment
3-9/9	SRSU College Culture: Student Responsibilities and Faculty Expectations
4-9/16	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
5-9/23	Time Management
6-9/30	Motivation/Goal Setting
7-10/7	Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions
8-10/14	Information Literacy/Plagiarism
9-10/21	Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents and Title IX
10-10/28	Advising/Registration
11-11/4	Financial Aid/Money Matters
12-11/10	Career Planning
13-11/18	Stress Management
14-11/25	Thanksgiving Holiday
15-12/2	Final Exam Prep
16-12/8	Final Exam Tuesday Dec 10 8:00-10:00 am

Important University Dates:

8/27	Last day to add a class to your schedule
9/9	Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
11/13	Last day to drop a course with a "W" (by 4pm)
12/2	Last class day before finals
12/3	"Dead Day"
12/4, 7-9	Final Exams