



First-Year Seminar (SRSU 1101-012) Fall 2020

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Class Meetings: Mondays, 11:00-11:50 a.m., Lawrence Hall, Room 200

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.; Thursdays 2:00-3:00 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!
- Participation and Cell Phones
 - Paying attention, asking relevant questions, giving constructive feedback when called upon will all be considered when determining the class participation grade.
 - **With that in mind; I do not want to see your cell phone, which needs to be on silent or off. If I see it, I take it.**

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

SRSU Disability Services

ADA (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.

SRSU 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). Virtual Tour: <https://sulross.libguides.com/SRSU1101>

Required Materials

Blackboard access and Sul Ross email address **checked daily**.

**No textbook required*

Late Work

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

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Attendance, participation, in-class assignments	40%
2. Homework assignments	20%
3. Service Learning Project	20%
4. Career Exploration Interview Paper/Presentation	20%

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 either in person, by office phone, or through email.
- You are expected to check your email on a **regular basis**.

Tentative Weekly Course Outline (Subject to change)

1. Week of August 24

Intro and Syllabus; Email, Lobo Online, Blackboard, Zoom, Campus resources

2. Week of August 31

College culture/Student responsibilities

3. Week of September 7

No class—Labor Day holiday; Kognito At-Risk

4. Week of September 14

Stress management/Time management—Rebecca Wren, Counseling Services

5. Week of September 21

Library—Betsy Evans, Wildenthal Library

6. Week of September 28

Financial Aid—Melissa Amparan, SRSU Financial Aid office

7. Week of October 5

Advising/Registration—Lobo Den advisor

8. Week of October 12

Student Organizations/SRSU Traditions

9. Week of October 19

Roommates, Relationships/Title IX

10. Week of October 26
Information literacy, plagiarism/academic integrity

11. Week of November 9
Career Exploration Interview presentations

12. Week of November 16 **last in-person class meeting*
Study Abroad at SRSU; **Service Learning hours due**

13. Week of November 23 **online*
Motivation and Goal setting; **Thanksgiving Break Wednesday-Friday**

14. Week of November 30 **online*
Career Planning

15. Week of December 7 **online*
Finals Week

Service Learning Project

Our class service learning project will be with the Alpine Public Library. More details on this will be provided soon but you can plan on completing **at least 2 hours** of volunteer service for the library during the Fall semester.

Career Exploration Interview Paper/Presentation

1. Conduct an interview with one of the following:
 - Faculty member in your intended major/field of interest
 - Upper division student in your intended major/field of interest
 - Professional in a career that you might be interested in pursuing
 - Graduate student in your academic specialization
2. Write a 2-page paper (*typed, 12 pt. font, double-spaced*) detailing your interview. Include information such as **what questions you asked** and the **answers** that they gave you. The concluding paragraph should summarize **what you thought** of the experience and if it helped you have a better idea of what you want to do; or even if it made you reconsider your chosen career/major.
3. You will give a **3-5 minute presentation** on your findings to the class on **Monday, November 9.**

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)
9/25	University "Meal on the Mall"
11/13	Last day to drop a course with a "W" (by 4 p.m.)
11/25	Res halls close for Thanksgiving at 9 am
11/30	Remainder of courses delivered remotely
12/2	Last class day before finals
12/3	"Dead Day"
12/4, 7-9	Final Exams
12/11	Graduation begins at 7 pm
12/12	Res halls close at Noon