

**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR – SRSU 1101 (SECTION13)
FALL 2020**

Instructor: Dr Crystal Kelehear Graham, Assistant Professor
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Office Hours: *Tuesday:* 12:30-14:00 | *Wednesday:* 10:30-12:30 | *Thursday:* 12:30-14:00 |
& by appointment

Lecture: Wednesday 13:00-13:50 | 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: Lecture attendance is mandatory. Lectures will not be posted on Blackboard so students must attend lectures to receive the material. This being said, due to COVID19, **anyone feeling ill should not come to class**. In the event that you miss class due to illness or other university-approved absences (SRSU athletic events, death in the family, illness, etc; see

<https://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/academic.pdf> for further details) do contact your instructor via email to request missed material. **Students cannot miss exams** unless they have a documented, university-approved excuse; in these cases, the instructor needs to be informed **more than 24 hours in advance** of the exam. Any missed exams must be taken within one week of the original 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. Lecture Attendance & Participation 50%

II. Quizzes & Assignments 40%

III. Final Exam 10%

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	Wednesday, August 26	Course Intro/Syllabus/Campus Resources
<i>Week 2</i>		
Lecture 2	Wednesday, September 2	E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online
<i>Week 3</i>		
Lecture 3	Wednesday, September 9	SRSU College Culture: Student Responsibilities and Faculty Expectations
<i>Week 4</i>		
Lecture 4	Wednesday, September 16	Student Organizations/SRSU Traditions
<i>Week 5</i>		
Lecture 5	Wednesday, September 23	Relationships/Title IX
<i>Week 6</i>		
Lecture 6	Wednesday, September 30	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
<i>Week 7</i>		
Lecture 7	Wednesday, October 7	Information Literacy
<i>Week 8</i>		
Lecture 8	Wednesday, October 14	Plagiarism
<i>Week 9</i>		
Lecture 9	Wednesday, October 21	Time Management/Planners
<i>Week 10</i>		
Lecture 10	Wednesday, October 28	Motivation/Goal Setting/Career Planning
<i>Week 11</i>		
Lecture 11	Wednesday, November 4	Advising/Registration
<i>Week 12</i>		
NO CLASS	Wednesday, November 11	Veteran's Day – No Class
<i>Week 13</i>		
Lecture 12	Wednesday, November 18	Financial Aid/Money Matters
<i>Week 14</i>		
NO CLASS	Wednesday, November 25	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
<i>Week 15</i>		
Lecture 13	Wednesday, December 2	Online - Stress Management
<i>Week 16</i>		
EXAM	Friday, December 4	Final Exam (12:30-2:30 pm)

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