

First Year Seminar Fall 2020



Course: SRSU 1101

CRN: 11906/003

12126/Z02

Class Meeting Time: T 1:00-1:50

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Phone: 432-837-8770

Office: FH 214B

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:45; Thursdays 11:00-12:45; or by appointment on Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Stein

Class Location: FH 203

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.

Program Learning Objectives:

1. Involve students in applying personal and academic success strategies that advance college study and intellectual development.
2. Engage students in critical analysis and creative thinking.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will implement personal time management strategies based on short and long term goals.
2. Students will 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. Students will describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.

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4. Students will identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Banner.
5. Students will exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
6. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

COVID 19

Safety Pledge - One University/One Community

As a partner in each campus community, the faculty, staff, and students agree to the following statements in relation to the COVID-19 virus:

- I will wear a face covering, wash my hands, and disinfect my workspaces to protect others from the potential spread of this virus. Failure to do so will be treated as a class disruption, per the Student Handbook, and will result in immediate dismissal from class.
- I promise to follow social distancing guidelines as a way to mitigate the risk of transmission to others both professionally and personally.
- I will monitor my health and report any potential health issues.
- I agree to follow the guidelines set forth in this document or as described by Sul Ross State University to protect the public health.
- I understand that my actions may impact the larger community and could affect my academic progress or professional attainment at Sul Ross State University.

Failing to meet these expectations may be subject to corrective action under university disciplinary policies. Changes or recommendations to the guidelines based on evolving guidance from federal, state, or local agencies will be communicated to the university community.

If you test positive, have had contact with someone known to be positive, believe that you may have contracted the virus, or if you have been recently tested for COVID-19, YOU MUST SELF-QUARANTINE AND STAY HOME. The self-quarantine period is 14 days.

In addition, if you are not feeling well, play it safe and stay home. Everyone will have access to the link for class, so if you think you might be sick, please attend class online.

SRSU policy requires us to wear masks (or face shields) in class and public spaces. Should at any point during the semester, the university move to online teaching only, then I will be in touch with you via your Sul Ross email address and we will continue our classes online.

Attendance

Attend class (Face-to-Face or Online)! Successful students commit to attending class regularly. Being a better writer requires you working hard at practicing good writing skills. You don't have to be super smart to be a better writer. You have to be committed.

Satisfactory attendance does not consist of your mere physical presence in class. You need to attend class, be on time, stay until class is dismissed, complete your homework, finish writing assignments on time, and be ready to engage intellectually with the material, with me, and with your classmates.

Everything else constitutes unsatisfactory attendance and includes, but is not limited to, absences, tardiness, leaving class early, coming to class unprepared to participate (without materials and/or assignments), sleeping, and/or using your cell phone (turn off before class begins), etc. I have no desire to fight you over your cell phones, but think about it. If you don't want to be in class and if you'd rather be on your phone, then leave class and be on the phone. Don't interrupt class with your inattention.

No absences will be "excused" (uncounted) unless they result from your carrying out official, verifiable university business recognized by SRSU. Excused absences will only matter for daily work, and

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only if you inform me before you miss a class that you have an absence upcoming. Because you have so much time to work on major papers/packets, the due dates for them are still in effect even if you have an excused absence or accommodation.

You have paid to attend this class. It is up to you to choose to attend this class. It is difficult to do well in a class that you do not attend. The decision is yours. Should you decide to drop this class, you must do so before 4:00 p.m. on November 13. Remember that the State of Texas only allows you six withdrawals.

Should you have to miss a class, you are still responsible for everything that is covered in that class. Missing class or being late is not an excuse for missing a due date or misunderstanding an assignment. Your classmates are always your first resource. You should feel free to contact me should you need more clarification.

Classroom Demeanor

I want you to feel free to speak your mind in this class. However, we will share our ideas in a respectful manner. We don't have to agree with each other, but we do have to support each other's right to have a differing point of view.

Online Learning

Distance learning students are expected to dress appropriately for class. Also, please limit the visual/audio disruptors that may be in the background. It is a good idea to mute yourself except for when you need to share something or ask a question.

Please review this site: <https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant>

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty hurts everyone and reduces the value of college degrees. Doing someone else's work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read and understand the university's policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook, as all violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The Student Handbook can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook> (page 80).

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments, as well as monitoring software for course exams.

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

Grading

Anytime you submit an assignment electronically, you will name the file using the following protocol: Last Name and Assignment Descriptor (Ex. Doe Narrative Paper).

I will attempt to return graded within one week. If circumstances require me to take a little longer, I will let the class know.

Grades are a double-edged sword. Grading is meant to show you how you can make your writing/communication skills stronger. Please take all comments (whether mine or peers) in the spirit of helping you become a better communicator.

Late Work

Submitting work late is a horrible habit that will not help you as a student and will only act as a disservice when you move into a professional role after graduation.

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Do all assignments and turn them in when requested. Even if you cannot be in class when the assignment is due, the assignment itself is still due. If you know that you will be missing class when an assignment is due, you can submit the final document and scanned packet via e-mail before class begins or you can turn in the final document and packet to my office before class begins.

I do not accept late work. Please mark your calendar with all of the due dates for all assignments this semester. Do not put yourself in the position of losing points because you failed to turn in assignments in a timely fashion or did not submit all parts of the assignment.

Format

You will use MLA format. All submitted drafts must be word processed. Computers and printers are available to you in the library, the ACR, Red Paw Den, and in the Library. All work completed in class must be legible. To receive the maximum number of points, you must follow directions. You will submit all major assignments on BlackBoard.

Note: Don't trust the classroom printer to be working when you need it to work.

Talk to Me

If you have questions or concerns, talk to me. I can't help if I don't know what the problem is.

Section XI: University Programs and Services

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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.

Technical Support

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using BlackBoard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience.

You can reach the support desk:

By calling 888.837.6055

Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard

Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

E-Mail, BlackBoard, and Office 365

You will want to check your Sul Ross e-mail regularly. It is an easy way for me to stay in contact with you and for you to stay in contact with me. I will use BlackBoard to send messages to your class,

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collect major assignments, provide you access to class assignments, and post your major paper grades. We will use BlackBoard in class. You need to be able to access both your SRSU e-mail, BlackBoard, and Office 365 accounts. If you need log-in help, please call 432-837-8888. Check your access early in the semester. I would recommend that you save your work on Office 365. This way you can access your work from any computer that has Internet access.

Writing Help

I strongly recommend that you use the tutors. You have several options for getting help:

- a) Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) located in the library; however, face-to-face tutoring will not be available this fall. You will need to call the TLC (432-837-8982 or email abanegas@sulross.edu) in order to set up a Microsoft Teams tutoring session with one of the writing tutors.
- b) Smarthinking (online tutoring services available on BlackBoard) – be sure to allow 48 hours turnaround time.

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).

COVID 19 Protocols: As part of SRSU's phased reopening, the Library and Archives of the Big Bend will welcome current students, staff, faculty, and community borrowers to make appointments to access the building, and will continue to promote curbside delivery of physical resources. Use the [Library Services and Resources Continuity Guide](#) to learn more about the phased reopening, including how to make appointments and what the Library is doing to promote safety and #stopthespread.

SRSU 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.

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Grade Breakdown:

Attendance: 300 possible points

Participation/Daily Grades: 200 possible points

Email Assignment: 50 possible points

Title IX: 50 possible points

Kognito At-Risk: 10% - 100 possible points

Major/Career Planning: 100 possible points

Final Exam: 20% - 200 possible points

Grading Scale:

90%-100% = A	OR	900-1000 points = A
80%-89% = B		800-899 points = B
70%-79% = C		700-799 points = C
60%-69% = D		600-699 points = D
59% or lower = F		599 points or fewer = F

Course Calendar

- 1) 8/25 Syllabus; Note-Taking
- 2) 9/1 Campus Resources, BlackBoard Access, Office 365; MLA
- 3) 9/8 Getting to Know Each Other
Tech Survey
- 4) 9/15 Motivation/Goal Setting/SRSU College Culture/Student
Responsibilities:
Freedom, Benefits/Consequences
- 5) 9/22 Email Assignment
- 6) 9/29 Kognito At-Risk Students
Google Chrome: <https://kognitocampus.com/> (Create a new account
using your SRSU email address; Enrollment key: sross)
- 7) 10/6 Title IX
- 8) 10/13 Sul Ross Traditions

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- 9) 10/19 *Mid-Term Week*
10/20 Career Planning: *Jung Typology Test*
<http://www.humanmetrics.com>
- 10) 10/27 Time Management.
- 11) 11/3 Financial Aid/Money Matters
 Guest Speaker: Mickey Corbett
- 12) 11/10 Campus Chain of Command.
- 11/13 (F) *Note: Last day for a student to drop a course with a "W" by 4:00 p.m.*
- 13) 11/17 Library Orientation.
 Orientation Guide: <https://sulross.libguides.com/SRSU1101>.
- 14) 11/24 This will be a Zoom class for everyone.
 Stress Management.
- 15) 12/1 This will be a Zoom class for everyone.
 Test-Taking Strategies; Final Exam Preparation.
- 12/3 *Note: Dead Day - No class*
- 16) 12/9 (W) This will be a Zoom class for everyone.
 Final Exam: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.