



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALPINE | TEXAS

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

SRSU 1101 CRN#11616

BAB 317 Tuesdays 1:00-1:50

Instructor: Clark Nussbaum

E-mail: clark.nussbaum@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8073 432-538-2678 432-386-0722

Office: MAB 307

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-5:00pm Thursdays 12:30-5:00pm

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.

Attendance & Class Participation:

A high degree of engagement is expected and will contribute to your learning as an active participant. This includes interacting with the guest presenters and other students, completing your degree plan and being prepared to participate in class discussions. This class is the beginning of your journey to becoming a professional. Evidence of professionalism includes attendance, collegial attitude, participation, and punctuality.

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. **Keep your cell phone on silent or off.**

Please provide your classmates and instructor the professional courtesy of arriving on time for the beginning of class and staying for the full duration of every class. Cell phones are permitted in class; however, phones must be placed in silent mode or turned off. No texting is allowed during class.

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>

Late Work:

Late work is not accepted. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless I state otherwise. No consideration of extending a due date will be considered on the day an assignment is due, students should contact the instructor if they are expecting to be unable to meet a deadline. Should I decide to accept a major assignment late, then a significant penalty will be assigned depending upon the circumstances.

Grade Breakdown:

<u>Course Assignments</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Points</u>
Attendance (14 sessions)	Weekly	140 points
Writing Assignment	September 28	60 points
Attend Club Meeting and Reflection	October 12	100 points
Interview Paper	November 16	100 points
Volunteer hours and Reflection	November 16	100 points
Total Points		500 points

Grading Scale:

90-100 =A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60=F

Required Textbook

No required text

Required: Blackboard access and a Sul Ross email address

Description of Course Assignments

Writing Requirement

APA writing format is required. Assignments must be typed using one-inch margins, 12-point type, and double line spacing; have all pages beginning with the first page numbered; and be edited for spelling, punctuation, and grammar. **Why you came to Sul Ross and what is your academic goal?**

-Attend one student club meeting and reflection

DUE: Tuesday, Oct. 12

You are required to attend one student club meeting. You must get the signature of an officer. In addition, you will need to write a two-paragraph reflection paper over the meeting. One paragraph should give an explanation of what happened at the meeting, and the second paragraph should be a reflection of what you thought about the meeting.

Service Learning Project Details: Due Tuesday, Nov. 16

You are required to complete 5 hours of volunteer work. You must get a verification statement and signature from the agency confirming that you did complete 5 hours of volunteer work. In addition, you will need to write a two-paragraph reflection paper over the volunteering experience. One paragraph should give an explanation of what type of volunteering you did/what you did, and the second paragraph should be a reflection of what you thought about the experience. A list of volunteer opportunities will be given out during class and discussed.

Interview/Paper: Due Tuesday, Nov. 16

1. You will need to conduct an interview with any 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 may be interested in pursuing,
- Graduate student in your same academic specialization, or
- Student from a diverse background; international, underrepresented group, etc.

2. You will need to write a 2-page, paper detailing your findings. You may present the information in the form of a script, using titles for yourself and the person you interviewed. The reader needs to be able to understand what you asked and the responses from the person you interviewed. Additionally, you will need to give a synopsis of your thoughts about your findings.

Important University Dates:

8/26	Last day to add a class to your schedule
9/8	Last day to drop a course (without it counting against you)
11/12	Last day to drop a course with a "W"
12/1	Last class day before finals
12/2	"Dead Day"
12/3	Final Exams
12/10	Graduation begins at 7 pm
12/10	Res halls close at Noon

DATES		TOPIC	PRESENTER
8/24		Introduction	
8/31		BlackBoard	Tim Parsons
9/7		Note Taking/Study Skills	Chris Garcia
9/14		Library	Betsy Evans
9/21		OIT	Jacob Fuentes
9/28		Stress Management/Physical Wellness	
10/5		Student Life	
10/12		Student Activities	Candes Ramon
10/19		Career Services	Dafne
10/26		Financial Aid	LeAndra Ramirez
11/2		International Experience	Dr. Mary Elizabeth Thompson
11/9		Title IX Video	
11/16		Service Learning Projects	
11/23		NO CLASS	
11/30		Final Discussions	