

First Year Seminar Fall 2021

Course: SRSU 1101
Instructor: Dr. Christopher M. Ritzi
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Phone: (432) 837-8420 **Section:** 005 (CRN 11909)
Office: WSB 217 **Time:** Wednesdays 2-2:50 PM
Office Hours: MWF 9-10, 11-12, R 2-4, or by apt. **Location:** WSB 107

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. 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.

Marketable Skills:

1. Students will be able to organize, analyze, and interpret data.
2. Students will be proficient at using presentation software.

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3. Students will acquire experience in managing time and meeting deadlines.
4. Students will gain the ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics.
5. Students will acquire experience and guidance in the development of professional email correspondence.

Course Materials

Students are expected to have access and 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 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 absent that day. Finally, if you are feeling sick, running a fever over 100 F, or exhibiting any symptoms of the current COVID infection, please stay home and self-quarantine. An email or phone is sufficient for me to mark your attendance as sick for the day. I will record my lectures if they are needed for this purpose.

Late Work

Late work is not encouraged, as it reflects poorly on you the student to your professor, and would be very detrimental if it was as a worker missing deadlines for an employer later in life. As such, any work submitted late (either in person or on Blackboard), will have 5 points subtracted per day late.

Grading Scale:

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

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Grade Breakdown:

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| Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments | 40% |
| Homework and other outside Blackboard assignments | 50% |
| Final | 10% |

Weekly Schedule:

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| Week | |
| 1-8/25 | Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources |
| 2-9/1 | E-mail/Blackboard/Banner Review |
| 3-9/8 | SRSU College Culture: Student Responsibilities and Faculty Expectations |
| 4-9/15 | Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles |
| 5-9/22 | Time Management |
| 6-9/29 | Motivation/Goal Setting |
| 7-10/6 | Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions |
| 8-10/13 | Information Literacy/Plagiarism |
| 9-10/20 | Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents and Title IX |
| 10-10/27 | Advising/Registration |
| 11-11/3 | Financial Aid/Money Matters |
| 12-11/10 | Career Planning |
| 13-11/17 | Stress Management |
| 14-11/24 | Thanksgiving Break |
| 15-12/1 | Final Exam Prep |
| 16-12/7 | Final Exam Monday Dec 7 th at 3:00 PM |

SRSU Disability Services: 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 Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as 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. 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

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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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Libraries: The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine.

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 logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect: Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement: "I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."