

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



Course: SRSU 1101
CRN: 11620
Class Meeting Time: M 1:00-1:50
Class Location: FH 203
Office: FH 214B

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Stein
Section: 007
E-mail: kstein@sulross.edu
Phone: 432-837-8770

Office Hours: TR: 8:15-9:30, 11:00 or M: 12:00-1:00, and 2:00-3:15 (unless I am engaged in university service elsewhere) OR by appointment

When I am not in my Ferguson Hall office (or at a meeting), I will be in Lobo Den in the library (432-837-8816).

Materials/Access:

BlackBoard Access

Sul Ross E-Mail Account

Internet Access (Office 365/OneDrive Access)

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.

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.

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.

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



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:

If you have had contact with someone known to be positive or believe that you may have contracted the virus, you must test. The university will offer free testing on Mondays and Thursdays.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you must quarantine and stay home. You also need to complete and submit the "Self-Report" form ([COVID-19 Info – Just another SRINFO Sites site \(sulross.edu\)](https://sulross.edu/srinfo/sites)).

If I am notified that I have a COVID-19 affected student, then I will start recording the class on BlackBoard's Collaborate Ultra. Quarantined individuals can then attend class via Collaborate. The only way that I will know that I have a COVID-19 student is if you self-report. If you do not self-report, then all I know is that you are absent. If you do have to quarantine and self-report, please also shoot me an email letting me know that you are COVID-19 affected. I will then be on the look out for the university notification and can start working with you immediately.

COVID-19, especially the Delta variant, is still a problem. If at any time the university moves classes to online, then I will be in touch with directions via your SRSU email address.

I strongly recommend that for your safety and the safety of those around you that you wear a mask.

Attendance:

Attend class! Successful students commit to attending class regularly. Being a good student requires you to practice good student habits. We'll talk about those this semester. You don't have to be super smart to be a good student. 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 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

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



must do so before 4:00 p.m. on November 12. Remember that the State of Texas only allows you six withdrawals. Never drop a class without checking with your professor, Lobo Den, your coach, and Financial Aid.

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.

SRSU Classroom Climate of Respect Statement: *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.*

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).

SRSU Academic Integrity Statement: *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.*

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

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



Grades are a double-edged sword. Grading is meant to show you how you have learned the material being assessed. 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.

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 rarely accept late work, and I don't accept late daily work at all. 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. Any major assignment submitted late will automatically have ten percent of the points deducted from the final grade.

Format: You will use MLA format. All submitted drafts must be word processed. Computers and printers are available to you in the library. All work completed in class must be legible. To receive the maximum number of points, you must follow directions. Note: Don't trust the classroom printer to be working when you need it to work. The classroom printer not working is not a valid reason for not turning in a paper on time.

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.

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.

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



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, 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 have a tutor look at your work before you turn in the final draft. You have several options for getting help:

- a) Tutoring and Learning Center located in the library

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).

SRSU 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.

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



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

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



Course Calendar

- 1) 8/23 Syllabus; Note-Taking; Getting to Know Each Other
- 2) 8/30 Campus Resources, BlackBoard Access, Office 365
- 3) 9/6 Labor Day Holiday! No Class!
- 4) 9/3 Motivation/Goal Setting;
Assign: Email Assignment
- 5) 9/20 SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities:
Freedom, Benefits/Consequences
Due (by 12:59 pm): Email Assignment
- 6) 9/27 Kognito At-Risk Students
Google Chrome: <https://kognitocampus.com/> (Create a new account using your SRSU email address; Enrollment key: sross)
- 7) 10/4 Title IX
- 8) 10/11 Sul Ross Traditions
- 9) 10/18 *Mid-Term Week*
10/18 Career Planning: *Jung Typology Test*
<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>
- 10) 10/25 Time Management.
- 11) 11/1 Financial Aid/Money Matters
Registration Exercise
- 12) 11/8 Campus Chain of Command
11/12 (F) *Note: Last day for a student to drop a course with a "W" by 4:00 p.m.*
- 13) 11/15 Library Orientation
Orientation Guide: <https://sulross.libguides.com/SRSU1101>.
- 14) 11/22 Stress Management

First Year Seminar Fall 2021



- 15) 11/29 Test-Taking Strategies; Final Exam Preparation
 12/2 (R) *Note: Dead Day - No class*
- 16) 12/6 (M) Final Exam: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.