

Class: First Year Seminar SRSU 1101

Instructor: Jeff Keeling

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Office Hours: MW 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., F 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Mission:

The mission of First-Year Seminar is to provide first-year students an opportunity to (1) experience and develop knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes that promote successful college study and positive campus participation, and to (2) 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 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 the class instructor.

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

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. Please be proactive in informing the professor of any expected absences in advance in order to meet class requirements.

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.

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 in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments	25%
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	25%
Special Projects	25%
Tests, and Final	25%

Grading Scale:

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

Tentative weekly schedule (subject to change)

Week

- 1 Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources
E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review
- 2 **Title IX Discussion**
Mental Health Discussion
- 3 How to research and use the Library Resources/Information Literacy/Plagiarism
Program Specific Information: How to do well in your major program
- 4 Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
Time Management/Stress Management – How to handle School/Work/Sports/Life Balance
- 5 Financial Aid/Scholarships/Money Matters
SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences
- 6 Motivation/Goal Setting
Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions
- 7 Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents
- 8 Advising/Registration
Career Planning; Staying Motivated to finish strong each semester; Final Exam