

Sul Ross State University
Policy and Syllabus
First Year Seminar SRSU 1101

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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.

1. Describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
2. Identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Lobo Online.
3. Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
4. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

Attendance & Class Participation

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade (see grade breakdown for specifics). 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.

Late Work

Late work policy is determined by the professor. In this, as in all your classes, open and proactive communication with faculty regarding all late work (e.g. due to illness or emergency or due to university-sanctioned activities, etcetera).

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments 40%

Course Journal Elements 40%

Final Examination 20%

Grading Scale:

90-100 =A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60 =F

Course Syllabus

Week

1. (8/22) Introductions and “Syllabus Day!”

(8/24) Campus Resources: Where are my tutors?!? Meeting Faculty. Keeping a Calendar. It’s *A Different World*.
2. (8/29) E-mail/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review – Tim Parsons

(8/31) Blackboard continued.
3. (9/5) Title IX Discussion – Karlin DeVoll.

(9/7) Mental Health Discussion – Counseling Center
4. (9/12) How to research and use the Library Resources/Information Literacy/Plagiarism

(9/14) Dr. Payne’s Library Tour!
5. (9/19) Let’s talk about majors and minors: Getting to know your faculty better, getting involved in programs, choosing what is a right fit for you. Perhaps a walkabout!

(9/21) Learning from the master procrastinator-turned-professor: Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles.
Time Management/Stress Management – How to handle School/Work/Sports/Life Balance. Or, how to keep a day-timer!

6. (9/26) Financial Aid/Scholarships/Money Matters – FA Counselor.

(9/28) SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom,
Benefits/Consequences Motivation/Goal Setting – Dean Brandy Snyder

7. (10/3) Student Organizations/Sul Ross Traditions

(10/5) Advising/Registration/Career Planning –*Lobo Den Advising Center and Faculty
Advisors*

8. (10/10) Finishing Strong : It's the end of our course, but not the end of your term. What
to do from midterm to end to assure success.

(10/12)Final Examination!!!

***All work in this course is due by 10/15 at 5 p.m. for grading—good luck with the rest of term—
I enjoyed our class together!!*