

**Class: First Year Seminar SRSU 1101**

**Instructor: Clark Nussbaum**

**E-mail:clark.nussbaum@sulross.edu**

**Phone: 432-837-8073 or 432-386-0722**

**Office: MAB 309C**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2-5pm**

**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. 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**

#### **Alpine Disability statement:**

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. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, 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 [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@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, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

**Description of Course Assignments**

**Writing Requirement**

**Why you came to Sul Ross and what is your academic goal?**

**-Attend one student club meeting and reflection**

**DUE: Oct. 1**

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 Oct 14**

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.

<b><u>Course Assignments</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
<u>Attendance (15 sessions)</u>		<u>150 points</u>
<u>Writing Assignment</u>	<u>August 24</u>	<u>50 points</u>
<u>Attend Club Meeting and Reflection</u>	<u>October 1</u>	<u>100 points</u>
<u>Volunteer hours and Reflection</u>	<u>October 14</u>	<u>100 points</u>
<u>Total Points</u>		<u>400 points</u>

**Grading Scale:**

90-100=A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60=F

<b>DATES</b>		<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
8/22		<b>Introduction &amp; Blackboard</b>	Tim Parsons
8/24		Civic Engagement & Student Assistance	Katy Williams
8/29		Title IX	Karlin Devoll
8/31		Mental Health	Erzulie Clark
9/5		No Class Labor Day Holiday	
9/7		Library	Betsy Evans
9/12		Note Taking and Study Habits	Anthony Quintana
9/14		Lobo Den Tutoring	Judith Loya
9/19		Student Activities	Candes Ramon
9/21		Student Life	Ben Telesca
9/26		Stress Management/Physical Wellness	Kinesiology
9/28		Student Support Services	Lindsey Coleman-Miranda
10/3		Lobo Registration	Judith Loya
10/5		Career Services/Testing	Amanda Barrera
10/10		Financial Aid	Leandra Ramirez
10/12		McNair & Dr. Realivasquez	Kathleen Rivers