



Class: First Year Seminar SRSU 1101

Instructor: Erika Zwahr

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Office Hours: 8am-12pm & 2pm-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.
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

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 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.

Late Work

Late work is NOT accepted. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless the professor states otherwise. No consideration of extending a due date will be considered on the day an assignment is due as students should contact the professor in advance if they are expecting to be unable to meet a deadline. Should the professor decide to accept a major assignment late, then a significant penalty will be assigned depending upon the circumstances

Course Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance (12 sessions)	Weekly	120 points/30%
Attend Club Meeting and Reflection	Sept. 21	100 points/15%
Interview Presentations	October 3 and 5	100 points/15%
Interview Paper	October 10	75 points/20%
Volunteer hours and Reflection	October 10	75 points/20%
Total Points		470 points/100%

Grading Scale:

90-100=A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60=F

First Year Seminar Fall 2022

Intended Weekly Schedule: Wednesdays, 11:00-11:50

Week 1

- 8/22- Introduction to class/syllabus/College Culture/Student Responsibilities/Faculty Expectations.
- 8/24- Email/Blackboard/Lobo Online Review (Tim Parsons)

Week 2

- 8/29- Complete Career Exploration
- 8/31- Library Workshop: Info. Literacy/Plagiarism/Academic Integrity (meet at the library)

Week 3

- 9/5- No Class
- 9/7-Note-Taking/Study Skills/Learning Strategies

Week 4

- 9/12- Student Organizations/SRSU Traditions/Mental Health
- 9/14- Sports & Recreation for Stress Relief and Community Building

Week 5

- 9/19- Title IX video
- Guidelines for Interviewing a professional, writing the paper, and presentation of interview
- 9/21- Career Exploration

Week 6

- 9/26- Financial Aid/Money Matters
- 9/28- Presentations of Interviewing a Professional Due

Week 7

- 10/3-Continue Presentations of Interviewing a Professional
- 10/5_Interview Paper Due

Week 8

- 10/10_Service Learning Project Volunteer hours and Reflection Due
- 10/12 End of Semester for First Year Seminar!