

# First Year Seminar Fall 2023

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## **SRSU 1101**

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Office Hours: MW 8-9, TH 10-11 or by appointment

### **Time and Location**

W 1:00pm – 1:50pm –RM 129 RAS

### **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.

### **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.

### **Program Learning Objectives**

Students will:

1. Apply personal and academic success strategies that advance college study and intellectual development, and
2. Engage in critical analysis and critical thinking.

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## **All First-Year Seminars have the same 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 a faculty mentor

## **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.

## **Required Texts**

No required text

Required: Blackboard 9 access and a Sul Ross email address

## **DESCRIPTION OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Interview/Paper/Graphic Organizer/Presentation**

1. You will need to conduct an interview with any one of the following:
  - Faculty member in your intended major/field of interest,
  - Upper division student in your intended major/field of interest,
  - Professional in a career that you may be interested in pursuing,
  - Graduate student in your same academic specialization, or
  - Student from a diverse background; international, underrepresented group, etc.
2. You will need to write a 2-page, typed paper detailing your findings. You may use any format you like (i.e. newspaper article) as long as the reader can determine what you asked and the responses from the person you interviewed. Additionally, you will need to give a synopsis of your thoughts about your findings.

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3. You will need to create a graphic organizer (mind map/flow chart) and present it to the class. More instructions to follow.
  - a. You will present a **3-5 minute talk** using (single page) power point or a similar program on your interview topic.

## **Attend 1 club meeting**

You will be required to attend one club meeting. You must get the signature of an officer. Also, 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. Your paper should be typed and double-spaced; you will submit this assignment via Blackboard.

## **Kognito**

You will be required to complete an online Kognito training session. The session will take between 40 minutes to one hour to complete. In order to receive credit for the assignment you must submit a printed copy or a screenshot of your completion certificate. The assignment is due by November 20<sup>th</sup>. The link will be on the class Blackboard page.

## **Weekly Reflections**

You will be required to submit 10 weekly reflection papers; thus you may choose the 10 weeks for which you would like to write a reflection. The reflection must be **one full page, typed, and submitted via Blackboard**. It may be on anything that occurred the preceding week. Your reflection will be due Friday by 10pm following Monday's class meeting. The paper should give an overview of Monday's class and how you perceive the content from the class will help you be successful in college and/or your week in general. There are no right or wrong answers on these reflections; however, I would like you to put sufficient thought into what you write. Grading will be based upon completeness, thoroughness of thought, level of reflection, spelling, and grammar.

## **Participation, Attendance, and other assignments**

A high degree of engagement is expected and will contribute to your learning as an active participant. This includes interacting with the speakers and other students, completing your degree plan and being prepared to participate in class discussions. This class is the beginning of your journey to becoming a professional. **All unexcused absences will result in a 10-point deduction from your final grade.** You must talk to me "live". Voice and email messages are not considered valid excuses. Evidence of professionalism includes attendance, collegial attitude, participation, and punctuality.

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Course Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance (12 sessions)	Weekly	120 pts
Club Meeting Reflection	By November 1	50 pts
Kognito Certificate	By November 20	100 pts
Interview Paper	December 4	50 pts
Interview Presentation	December 4	50 pts
Weekly Reflections (10 @ 10 pts each)	Friday at 5:00pm weekly	100 pts
Service Learning Project	Rodeo Clean-up	100 pts
Total points		570 pts

### **Grading Scale- % of total points**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = below 60%

### **Late Work**

Students' class attendance and participation are required. No emailed assignments will be accepted. No consideration of extending a due date will be considered on the day an assignment is due, students should contact the instructor if they are expecting to be unable to meet a deadline. **All late assignments will be assessed a 20% deduction for each day they are late; no assignments will be accepted after 5 days.**

Any time instruction is missed, for any reason, it will count as an absence. College approved field trips, and competitive and leadership development events (with prior instructor approval) are considered legitimate and with proper documentation will not be considered an absence. Seeking an extended deadline due to the above mentioned absences should be arranged before

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missing the course meeting. In case of emergencies, arrangements for completing assignments should be made immediately upon return to campus.

## **Use of technology during instruction**

This class is the beginning of your journey to becoming a professional, and the use of personal cell phones, iPads, computers, and other electronic devices can distract learning for all individuals and create an unprofessional environment. However, electronic devices can also be powerful tools to be used in the learning process. Therefore, the use of electronic devices for class purposes, such as note-taking and internet searches is allowed. But, remember that you are now a professional and will be required to act accordingly. So, if you choose to use electronic devices in the classroom, do so in a professional manner.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to submit original work without unauthorized assistance. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, and aiding and abetting, will result in a grade of 0 on the work in question. Subsequent instances of academic dishonesty may result in more serious sanctions.

“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. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Alpine, TX 79832.

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## NRM 1101 Course Calendar

(Subject to change)

	Topics / Learning Experiences
	Introductions/Syllabus/Expectations
	OfficeSuite 365 – OIT-Tim Parsons- all sections
	<b>Labor Day – No Class</b>
	Email, Banner, Blackboard, Undergraduate Research Opportunities
	Meet the ANRS Faculty-free pizza
	Service project clean-up
	Financial Aid
	Counseling Center TBA
	Discuss Paper guidelines
	Advising/Registration Guidelines
	Library Activity
	Presentations
	Interview presentations/papers due on Blackboard by midnight

### Service Learning Project Details:

*TBA*