



Fall 2023
First Year Seminar (FYS)/SRSU 1101
Course Syllabus

Class: 003/11399

Class Time: 1:00 pm/ Wednesdays

Location: WSB 301

Instructor: Dr. Stein

E-mail: kstein@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8770

Office: Ferguson Hall 214B

Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:00, OR 2:00-3:00, or by appointment (unless I called into a university meeting)

Mission:

The mission of First-Year Seminar is to provide first-year students an opportunity (1) to develop knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes that promote successful academic and non-academic participation and (2) to appreciate multiple perspective and 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 experience. 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.

Critical Thinking.

Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Communication.

Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Attendance & Class Participation

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade Attend class! Successful students commit to attending class regularly. Being a better writer requires you working hard at practicing good writing skills. You don't have to be super smart to be a better writer. You have to be committed.

Satisfactory attendance does not consist of your mere physical presence in class. You need to attend class, be on time, stay until class is dismissed, complete your homework, finish writing assignments on time, and be ready to engage intellectually with the material, with me, and with your classmates.

Everything else constitutes unsatisfactory attendance and includes, but is not limited to, absences, tardiness, leaving class early, coming to class unprepared to participate (without materials and/or assignments), sleeping, and/or using your cell phone (turn off before class begins), etc.

I have no desire to fight you over your cell phones, so please think about it. If you don't want to be in class and if you'd rather be on your phone, then leave class and be on the phone. Don't interrupt class with your inattention.

No absences will be "excused" (uncounted) unless they result from your carrying out official, verifiable university business recognized by SRSU. Excused absences will only matter for daily work, and only if you inform me before you miss a class that you have an absence upcoming.

Should you have to miss a class, you are still responsible for everything that is covered in that class. Missing class or being late is not an excuse for missing a due date or misunderstanding an assignment. Your classmates are always your first resource. You should feel free to contact me should you need more clarification.

NOTE: On days when we meet outside of our classroom, you must find me and sign in.

Late Work

Submitting work late is a horrible habit that will not help you as a student and will only act as a disservice when you move into a professional role after graduation.

Do all assignments and turn them in when requested. Even if you cannot be in class when the assignment is due, the assignment itself is still due. If you know that you will be missing class when an assignment is due, you can scan and submit the final document via e-mail before class begins or you can turn in the final document and packet to my office before class begins.

I do not accept late work. Please mark your calendar with all of the due dates for all assignments this semester. Do not put yourself in the position of losing points because you failed to turn in assignments in a timely fashion or did not submit all parts of the assignment.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

ADA 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 Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Diversity Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could

impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance	30%
Student Engagement Blackboard Assignment	10%
Quizzes	30%
E-Mail Assignment	10%
Visit with Dr. Stein	10%
Final Exam	10%

Grading Scale:

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignment & Activities
August 30	First Day of Class	
September 6	Fall On the Mall: Student Engagement Fair	Submit in BB a short paragraph on the Student Engagement Fair; due by 11:59 pm on Monday, Sept. 11.
September 13	Workshop: Title IX/Counseling (Location: WSB 201)	Assign office visit with Dr. Stein
September 20	Workshop: Library/Academic Integrity (Location: Library)	Quiz on Title IX/Counseling Presentation
September 28	Workshop: Study Skills / Student Engagement (Location: WSB 201)	Quiz on Library/Academic Integrity
October 4	Assign: E-mail Assignment	Quiz on Study Skills/Student Engagement
October 11	Test-Taking Strategies	
October 19	Who's Who at SRSU?	Quiz on Test-Taking Strategies
October 25	SRSU Traditions (Location: TBA)	Quiz on Who's Who at SRSU
November 1	Workshop: Financial Aid (Location: TBA)	Quiz on SRSU Traditions
November 8	Workshop: Academic Advising (Location: TBA)	Quiz on Financial Aid Workshop
November 15	No Class: Visit with Dr. Stein	Schedule a 10-minute visit with Dr. Stein during the week of Nov. 13
November 22	Thanksgiving – No Class	
November 29	Campus Tour	
December 6	Review for Final Exam	Friday, Dec. 8, 12:30-2:30

