



**Fall 2023**  
**First Year Seminar SRSU 1101**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Class: FYS SRSU 1101**

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 1:50 pm - Wednesdays

**Location:** Room 106

**Instructor:** Dr. Morrissey

**E-mail:** [hugh.morrissey@sulross.edu](mailto:hugh.morrissey@sulross.edu)

**Phone:** 432-837-8448

**Office:** Grace-Pierce 102a

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am – noon, or by appointment (email to set an appointment)

**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 (500 points, 50%)**

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. Students will receive full points for being on time and ½ the points for showing up late.

### **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](mailto: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.

**Late Work**

**Assignments, projects, and Journals carry a 30% deduction for 1-7 days late.**

For consideration to turn in work passed 1 week late, must be approved by the professor for grading consideration. If approved by the professor, assignments turned in over 1 week late will carry a minimum 50% deduction.

**Grade Breakdown: (May be modified by instructor)**

Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments 50%  
 Homework and other Blackboard assignments 30%  
 Special Projects, Tests, and Final 20%

**Grading Scale: (May be modified by instructor)**

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

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment &amp; Activities</b>
August 30	First Day of Class	
September 6	Fall On the Mall: Student Engagement Fair	
September 13	Workshop: Study Skills / Student Engagement (Location: BAB 304)	
September 20	Workshop: Title IX/Counseling (Location: BAB 304)	

September 28	Topic: Instructor Choice	
October 4	Workshop: Library/Academic Integrity (Location: Library)	
October 11	Topic: Instructor Choice	
October 19	Topic: Instructor Choice	
October 25	SRSU Traditions (Location: TBA)	
November 1	Workshop: Financial Aid (Location: TBA)	
November 8	Workshop: Academic Advising (Location: TBA)	
November 15	Topic: Instructor Choice	
November 22	Thanksgiving - No Class	
November 29	Topic: Instructor Choice	
December 6	Topic: Instructor Choice	