

Class: First Year Seminar SRSU 1101 BAB 317

Wednesday 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

Instructor: Clark Nussbaum

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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.

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. 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 Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul 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 25

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.

<u>Course Assignments</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Attendance (14 sessions)</u>		<u>140 points</u>
<u>Writing Assignment</u>	<u>September 6</u>	<u>60 points</u>
<u>Attend Club Meeting and Reflection</u>	<u>October 1</u>	<u>100 points</u>

Volunteer hours and Reflection

October 31

100 points

Total Points

400 points

Grading Scale:

90-100=A

80-89 =B

70-79 =C

60-69 =D

Below 60=F

Date	Topic	Assignment & Activities
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	
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	