

SRSU 1101: FIRST YEAR SEMINAR | SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY, FALL 2024

Lectures: Ferguson Hall 201, Wednesdays 1:00-1:50 pm

Professor: Dr. Devin Pettigrew; devin.pettigrew@sulross.edu

Office Hours: Ferguson Hall 114B, Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm

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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, note taking and study skills, preparing for exams, understanding college policies and regulations, and using the SRSU Blackboard website. Students will also learn about SRSU's resources, activities, and rich cultural diversity. Throughout the course, students will use critical thinking to make informed choices, to understand their responsibilities for academic success, and to become independent, motivated learners.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester you will have:

- 1) Expanded and deepened your understanding of the world and yourself;
- 2) Enhanced your ability to read and think critically;
- 3) Enhanced your ability to communicate effectively in writing, speech, and other forms;
- 4) Developed the fundamentals of information literacy, and research;
- 5) Developed comfort working closely with your classmates and instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

- 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 the institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
- 4) Identify and utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate the use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Lobo Online.
- 5) Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
- 6) Develop empirical and quantitative skills to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- 7) Develop teamwork skills to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- 8) Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Your grade in this class is based on in-class work on assignments and quizzes (60%) and a final project entailing an interview, written paper, and presentation (40%). Some “in-class” assignments actually involve attendance or assignments for an activity performed outside the classroom, see the course schedule below. Performing well in this class requires showing up on time, being attentive and taking notes, and working through to the end of class. Attendance is voluntary, but not attending class or arriving late will be the biggest detriment to your grade.

Quizzes or assignments will not be provided to absentees or latecomers after the fact.

However, if you have a reasonable excuse for missing class please inform me ***well in advance of the expected absence*** and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Assignments and quizzes (60%). Over the semester you will complete in-class assignments and quizzes designed to help you achieve the course objectives listed on page 1 of this syllabus. Assignments will be due at the end of class. Where assignments occur during class periods without quizzes (primarily during activities outside of class, such as campus clean-up) they will count for double, accounting for both quiz and assignment points in a normal class period. Quizzes will tend to be administered at the beginning of class. These will be based on material you learned in prior classes. Because note taking is an important skill we want to teach you, most quizzes will be open-notes. You will be informed prior to quizzes that are not open-notes.

Final Project (40%). Your final project for this course is to present an interview with an SRSU faculty, staff, graduate student, or senior undergraduate student. You should choose an interviewee whose career or degree track aligns with your career goals. The topic of the interview is to learn more about the interviewee’s career journey and talk about the plans for your own career. After your interview you will write a 2-3 page paper summarizing the interview. Based off the paper, you will present a short PowerPoint about your interview (5-10 min) during the Final Exam period. Rubrics for the paper and final presentation will be provided.

Final project steps

Schedule your interview and present
draft questions

Find published resources related to your
interviewee or career goals

2-3 page paper summarizing your interview
and final presentation

Due Date

Wednesday, November 6

Wednesday, November 20

Wednesday, December 4

CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

TECHNOLOGY

You will be learning to use Blackboard and other SRSU technology in this class. During class you must take notes by hand. Studies indicate improved comprehension of materials when recorded by hand, and computer notes will not be accessible to you during open-note quizzes, these are only for hand-written notes. Cell phones must be silenced or turned off and put away during class. This is required not only to improve your learning experience but those around you. Please respect your instructor and fellow classmates in this and future classes by keeping your phone put away.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. 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 or contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

SRSU LIBRARIE SERVICES

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your Lobold and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123). No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as 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. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

CLASSROOM 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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE, FALL 2024

Week	Date	Topic/Activity
1	Aug. 28	Syllabus, course expectations, and your learning style
2	Sept. 4	Fall on the Mall: Student Engagement Fair— <i>do not go to the classroom; find me on the mall in front of the UC to get your assignment sheet.</i>
3	Sept. 11	Counseling and accessibility services—guest, counseling services
4	Sept. 18	Academic advising—guest, Judith Loya
5	Sept. 25	Note taking and study habits
6	Oct. 2	SRSU technology; using technology properly and to your advantage
7	Oct. 9	Time management, goal setting, and staying organized
8	Oct. 16	Career planning and using college to your advantage—guest, Brooke Guffin guest <i>Present dra</i>
9	Oct. 23	Writing, academic integrity and plagiarism, finding research material—guest, writing center
10	Oct. 30	Financial matters—guest, financial aid
11	Nov. 6	Strengths finder—guest, Katy Williams
12	Nov. 13	Library visit— <i>do not go to the classroom; meet in the library lobby; guest, Betsy Helesic</i>
13	Nov. 20	Service Leadership: Campus clean-up
14	Nov. 27	<i>Thanksgiving holiday, no class!</i>
15	Dec. 4	Student presentations and final paper due

Schedule may be subject to change depending on weather and other extraneous circumstances. Check email and course Blackboard page for updates.