



Fall 2024
First Year Seminar SRSU 1101
Course Syllabus

Class: FYS SRSU 1101

Class Time: 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm on Wednesdays

Location: FH 203

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Stein

E-mail: kstein@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8770

Office: FH 214B

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:15

Wednesdays: 11:00-noon

Thursdays: 11:00-12:15; 2:00-3:00

OR by appointment

Note: Sometimes I am called into university meetings during these times. I'll try to let you know ahead of time if I am not going to be available during scheduled office hours.

Materials/Access:

BlackBoard Access Sul Ross E-Mail Account Internet Access (Office 365/OneDrive Access)

Mission:

The mission of the 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 perspectives and reflect intellectual and cultural diversity within and beyond college.

Course Description:

The 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 their understanding of the world and of self,
2. enhance their ability to read and think critically,
3. Enhance their 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 the institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
2. Identify and utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate the 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.

My Commitment to You:



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.

Attend class! Successful students commit to attending class regularly. Being a good student requires you to practice good student habits. We'll talk about those this semester. You don't have to be super smart to be a good student. 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, but 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. Because you have so much time to work on major projects, the due dates for them are still in effect even if you have an excused absence or accommodation.

You have paid to attend this class. It is up to you to choose to attend this class. It is difficult to do well in a class that you do not attend. The decision is yours. Should you decide to drop this class, you must do so before 4:00 p.m. on November 8. Remember that the State of Texas only allows you six withdrawals. Never drop a class without checking with your professor, Lobo Den, your coach, and Financial Aid.

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.

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 submit the final document via e-mail before class begins or you can turn in the final document to my office before class begins.

I rarely accept late work, and **I don't accept late daily work at all**. Please mark your calendar with all of the due dates for all major assignments in all of your classes for 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. Any major assignment submitted late will automatically have ten percent of the points deducted from the final grade.

Grading

Anytime you submit an assignment electronically, you will name the file using the following protocol: Last Name and Assignment Descriptor (Ex. Doe Registration Assignment).

I will attempt to return graded materials within one week. If circumstances require me to take a little longer, I will let the class know.

Grades are a double-edged sword. Grading is meant to show you how you have learned the material being assessed. Please take all comments (whether mine or peers) in the spirit of helping you become a better communicator.

Talk to Me

If you have questions or concerns, talk to me. I can't help if I don't know what the problem is.

ADA STATEMENT

SRSU 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 or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also 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 themselves with the requirements of such laws.

SRSU LIBRARY 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 LoboID 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.

COUNSELING

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting Timelycare/SRSU. The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

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 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.

SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may 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 a supportive 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.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using BlackBoard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience.

You can reach the support desk:

By calling 888.837.6055

Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard

Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

TUTORING

- a) The Tutoring Center is located in the library in Lobo Den; call 432-837-8982 for a reservation with a tutor.
- b) Tutor.com (online tutoring services available on BlackBoard) – be sure to allow 48 hours turnaround time for a writing assignment.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance: 100 possible points

Participation/Daily Grades: 100 possible points

Email Assignment: 100 possible points

Visit with Dr. Stein: 100 possible points

BlackBoard Assignments: 300 possible points

Career Planning Results Discussion Post: 100 possible points

Campus Activities Form: 200 possible points

Registration Exercise: 100 possible points

Campus Clean-Up: 100 possible points

Final Exam: 100 possible points

Course Calendar

- Aug. 28: Introduction to Syllabus, SRSU Tech, and Each Other
Assign: E-mail Assignment (**Due: Sept. 11 by 5:00 pm**)
Aug. 29: Late Registration Ends
Sept. 2: Labor Day Holiday! No classes!
- Sept. 4: Fall on the Mall: Student Engagement Fair (In front of the UC on the Mall)– Find me to sign in and get your assignment sheet.
- Sept. 11: Time Management
Assign: Visit with Dr. Stein (Your visit must take place by Oct. 18 before 5:00 pm.)
Assign: Campus Activities Form (Due: Dec. 4 in BB by 11:59 pm)
Due: E-mail Assignment due by 5:00 pm
Sept. 17: National Voter Registration Day
- Sept. 18: Workshop: Counseling (Marshall Auditorium) – Find me to sign in and get your assignment sheet
- Sept. 25: Money Management
- Oct. 2: Note-taking/Annotating
Oct. 7: Last Day to Register to Vote
- Oct. 9: Library Orientation (meet at the check- out desk in the library)
- Oct. 16: Career Planning
Oct. 18: **Due: Visit with Dr. Stein (Your visit must take place before 5:00 pm.)**
- Oct. 23: Goal Setting
- Oct. 30: Academic Integrity & Avoiding Plagiarism
Nov. 5: Election Day: Be sure to vote!
- Nov. 6: Campus Tour and Who's Who on Campus
Nov. 8: Last Day to Drop a Class with a "W."
Nov. 13: SRSU History and Traditions
- Nov. 20: Service Leadership: Campus Clean-Up
Nov. 22: Due: Registration Activity (Due in BB by 11:59 pm)
- Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Holiday! No Class!*
- Dec. 4: Final Exam Prep
Due: Campus Activities Form (Due in in BB by 11:59 pm)
Last Class Day
- Dec. 5: *Dead Day! No Classes!*
- Dec. 6: Final Exam (12:30-2:30)**