



Fall 2024
First Year Seminar SRSU 1101
Course Syllabus

Class: FYS SRSU 1101
Class Time: 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm on Wednesdays
Location: WSB 301
Instructor: Dr. Jesse Kelsch (she/her; pronounced ‘kelsh’)
E-mail: jkelsch@sulross.edu
Phone: 432-837-8657
Office: WSB 316
Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur 1:30-3:00pm; Wed 2:00-3:00pm; or by appt.

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:

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.

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.

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.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz, LPC-S, 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 mary.schwartz@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.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Big Three:

- Show up on time.
- Be present for the 50 minutes we are together.
- Be respectful to other classmates.

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.

Counseling

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free online counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/sulross). 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.

SRSU Library Services

The Sul Ross Library offers 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 your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or 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.

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) Tutoring and Learning Center located in the library (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.

Late Work

Turning assignments in after their due date will result in diminishment of the assignment's grade by 3 points each late day.

Grade Breakdown/Assignments:

Graded Item	Point Value	Percentage of class grade
Attendance	10 pts	10%
Email assignment	10 pts	10%
Office meeting with professor	10 pts	10%
Campus clean-up	10 pts	10%
Registration exercise	10 pts	10%
Scavenger hunt	10 pts	10%
Blackboard exercises	3 @ 10 pts ea = 30 pts	30%
Total for class	100 pts	100%

Grading Scale:

The grade you earn for this class during the semester will be calculated using the following scale:

90 – 100 %	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
0 – 59%	F

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Activities
Aug. 28	First Day of Class	<i>Introduction to course, classmates, and professor</i>
Sept. 4	Fall on the Mall: Student Engagement Fair	<i>Meet on the Mall outside WSB for class; sign in with professor</i>
Sept. 11	Blackboard, OneDrive, Office 365, technical support	<i>Explore digital resources provided to SRSU students</i>
Sept. 18	Workshop: Counseling (Location: Marshall Auditorium)	<i>Meet inside MAB in front of Marshall Auditorium for class; sign in with professor</i>
Sept. 25	Note taking	<i>Practice effective note-taking from lectures and from reading</i>
Oct. 2	Campus Scavenger Hunt	<i>Meet in classroom to join teams for scavenger hunt</i>
Oct. 9	Academic Integrity/ Plagiarism	<i>Discuss academic integrity and how to use resources appropriately</i>
Oct. 16	Library resources	<i>Meet at the campus library entrance; sign in with professor</i>
Oct. 23	Goal setting	<i>Discuss and practice setting effective goals; use Excel to lay out goals</i>
Oct. 30	Career planning/ discipline exploration	<i>Discuss majors, concentrations, disciplines, and careers</i>
Nov. 6	Financial matters: Budgets and Financial Aid	<i>Explore SRSU Financial Aid options; outline budget basics with Excel</i>
Nov. 13	DegreeWorks and registration tools	<i>Explore SRSU Degree-planning tools and advising</i>
Nov. 20	Service Leadership: Campus Clean-Up	<i>Meeting location TBA</i>
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Holiday!	<i>No class</i>
Dec. 4	Time management	<i>Discuss techniques for ensuring we have time for All The Things we do</i>
Dec. 6 12:30	Final Exam	