

General Studies 4100
Senior Assessment Portfolio Course
Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Laura Payne

Office: BAB 316

Phone: 432.837.8524

Email: lbutler@sulross.edu

Student Conference Hours: By appointment (please call or email abangas@sulross.edu to make an appointment).

Required Texts: All required reading will be found on BB

Course Description

This capstone course is intended to allow students to demonstrate developed proficiency in research and analysis through producing an original analytic, self-reflective piece of writing, as well as in assessing, gathering, and presenting copies of two significant scholarly papers (or other forms of university work most indicative of their pursuits) for consideration and evaluation. Finally, students will complete a series of daily activities meant to review their academic experiences and future aspirations. The prerequisite for the course is that students are seniors in good standing (i.e. 90 sch completed) in the final term before graduation.

Course Expectations

The course will be assessed upon a portfolio compiled during our term and submitted under the assignments (found in course content) tab. The following assignments will be found on the SRSU Blackboard site for the course. The portfolio will consist of the following items:

Journal

Elements—The portfolio elements will be brief essays (500 words each) assignments answering to prompts. Some elements depart from narratives in the forms of assignments such as creating resumes. The element prompts will be numbered and found in the **announcements** in the BB course. Thus, it is important to check the course announcements consistently to keep up with the course. It will be turned in and assessed once, **at the end of term**. (50% weight)

Exemplary Coursework—You will choose two significant scholarly works from coursework achieved at Sul Ross. The work should have derived from a junior- or senior-level courses. Research and other types of significant writings are recommended. In order to depart from the recommended genre, please consult Dr. Payne (lbutler@sulross.edu). The scholarly work should

demonstrate your ability to successfully navigate and present a given topic using appropriate and varied research or other scholarly support (i.e. sources which are cited according to the documentation style used in the subject area of the paper in the style of APA for subjects such as psychology and criminal justice, MLA for English, CBE for biology, and so on). (25% weight)

Self-Reflection Essay—You will write an essay in which you reflect on your academic journey, as well as project to your future aspiration. (25% weight)

Miscellaneous -- but important!

If, for any reason, you require accommodations for the successful completion of this course, please let me know as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements.

My office hours are, of course, “cyber” hours, although I will be available on campus at Sul Ross, as well. Please do not hesitate to call the office phone. Or, I can provide further numbers and arrange more convenient times to speak as necessary. I will answer emails within 48 hours of receiving them (with the exception of weekends), so please do not wait until the last moment to ask questions.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

All courses aligned with specific degree programs should use the Student Learning Outcomes of that program that are reported to SACSCOC. The Academic Assessment Program Coordinators can provide students learning outcomes for each degree plan.

Marketable Skills

All courses aligned with specific degree programs should use the Marketable Skills of that program that are reported to THECB. The Academic Assessment Program Coordinators can provide the Marketable Skills for each degree plan. They also are located at srinfo.sulross.edu/hb2504

American with Disabilities Act

Any student who because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. If an accommodation is needed, students must present their accommodation letter, obtained from Accessibility Services, as soon as possible. Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received. Accessibility Services is in Ferguson Hall room 112. You can make an appointment by calling 432.837.8203.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

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 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.

Library

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community at all of our campuses. In addition, the Eagle Pass campus offers a residential librarian. 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 phone (432-837-8123).

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.

Academic Ethics: It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Any student who represents someone else's work as his or her own will automatically receive a zero for that assignment, which will likely result in a failure for the course. Plagiarism can be purposeful or inadvertent, but either results in an unacceptable and unethical academic performance. Plagiarism will most likely result in a failure for the course.

A Writer's Reference: I strongly recommend all students own and utilize Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*. It is a sound, credible, and particularly usable stylebook.