



Course Syllabus  
First Year Seminar: IT 1101  
Fall 2025

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**Class:** IT 1101

**Class Time:** Wednesdays 1:00 – 1:50

**Instructor:** Dr. Eric Busby

**Office:** ITB 101-C

**Phone:** 432-837-8137

**Credit:** 1

**Location:** Industrial Technology Room 103

**E-mail:** eric.busby@sulross.edu

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Mission:**

The mission of the First Year Seminar is to provide first-year students with an opportunity to:

1. develop knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes that promote successful academic and non-academic participation, and
2. 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.

**Course Goals:**

All First-Year Seminars have five common goals for every student enrolled:

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:**

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

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. Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.
7. Develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
8. Develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

**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.

**Required Materials:** Blackboard Ultra access (via personal computer or SRSU computer labs); SRSU email address (firstname.lastname@sulross.edu)

**Supplemental Materials:** (Provided through SR Blackboard)

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***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](mailto: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 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/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.

***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](https://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](mailto: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/](https://library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto: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 or by email [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu). You may also reach the Support desk from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard by 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.

*(Fill in these items with information for your particular section.)*

**Late Work**

All assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard. No late work will be accepted without proper documentation or prior approval by the instructor. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless I state otherwise. No consideration of extending the due date will be considered on the day an assignment is due, students should contact the instructor if they are expecting to be unable to meet a deadline. Should I decide to accept a major assignment late, then a significant penalty will be assigned depending upon the circumstances.

**Grade Breakdown/Assignments:**

Final grades will be determined by the totals in these areas:

- 30% Attendance, Participation, In-class assignments
- 20% Service-Learning Project
- 20% Interview/Presentation
- 15% Homework and other assignments

**Grading Scale:**

In the event one of the above categories is not completed during the course that percentage will automatically be divided between the other categories at the same level. All assignment points will be converted to percentages for individual assignment letter grades.

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Below 60 = F

Grades will be earned on the basis that “C” is average work, “B” is above average work, and “A” is well above average work. Barring any unusual circumstances there will be NO INCOMPLETES given at the end of this semester.

# Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Preparation/Assignments
Aug. 27	First Day of Class	Introduction to class/syllabus/College Culture/Student responsibilities/Faculty Expectations.
Sept. 3	Student Engagement and Career Fair (Location: UC)	Student Organizations
Sept. 10		Title IX Discussion (1) Title IX video (2) Guidelines for interviewing a professional, writing the paper, and presentation of interview.
Sept. 17	Workshop: Counseling (Location: Marshall Auditorium)	Mental Health Discussion
Sept. 24		How to research and use the Library Resources/Information Literacy/Plagiarism
Oct. 1		Program Specific Information: How to do well in your major program
Oct. 8		Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
Oct. 15		Time Management/Stress Management – How to handle School/Work/Sports/Life Balance
Oct.22		Financial Aid/Scholarships/Money Matters
Oct. 29		SRSU College Culture/Student Responsibilities: Freedom, Benefits/Consequences
Nov. 5		Motivation/Goal Setting
Nov. 12		Relationships: Roommates, Dating, Parents
Nov. 19		Sul Ross Traditions
Nov. 26	No Class! Thanksgiving Holiday!	
Dec. 3		Career Planning
Dec. 5 12:30	Final Exam 12:30-2:30 PM	Staying Motivated to finish strong each semester