

Sul Ross State University
SRSU 1101
First Year Experience

Class: SRSU 1101-003

Credit: 1

Class Time: Wednesdays 1:00 – 1:50

Location: ACR 203

Instructor: Dr. Angela Brown

E-mail: abrown4@sulross.edu

Office: ACR 102

Office Hours: MW 2-4, TR 10-11

Phone: 432-837-8223

Course Mission

The mission of the First Year Seminar is to provide first-year students opportunities to:

- develop knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes that promote successful academic and non-academic participation, and
- 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:

- Expand and deepen their understanding of the world and of self,
- Enhance their ability to read and think critically,
- Enhance their ability to communicate effectively, in writing, speech, and other appropriate forms,
- Develop the fundamentals of information literacy and library research,
- Work closely with the class instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Implement personal time management strategies based on short and long-term goals.
- 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.
- Describe the institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.
- Identify and utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate the use of SRSU technology: student e-mail, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Lobo Online.
- Exhibit financial literacy in relation to college and beyond.
- Discuss the importance of SRSU in the larger community.
- Develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- 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.

Students are expected to attend every class. If class must be missed, the student is expected to get the materials from a classmate, and to check with me or on Blackboard for announcements and updated assignments.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. If a student is perpetually late, they will be asked to not attend class unless they arrive on time. If tardiness becomes a problem for the class as a whole, people who arrive late will not be permitted to enter the class. If this stricter policy becomes necessary, there will be an announcement made in class.

It is policy of the university to drop a student with a grade of "F" if 20% or more of the classes are missed. This is 3 classes for SRSU 1101. Excused absences for school events do not count but need to be brought up ahead of time.

Students are also expected to actively participate in class. This includes being part of any discussions, asking questions, and sharing your ideas.

Required Materials

Blackboard Ultra access (via personal computer or SRSU computer labs);
SRSU email address.

Supplemental Materials: (Provided through SR Blackboard)

Late Work Any late work will be an automatic 30 points off and can be turned in at most 2 weeks late before it is automatically a 0.

Grading Scale

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F

Grade Breakdown

Attendance, Participation, and In-class assignments	10%
Email Assignment	10%
Office Meeting with Instructor	10%
Registration Exercise	10%
Attendance for on Campus Events	10%
Service Learning/Volunteering	10%
Homework and other outside Blackboard assignments	30%
Final	10%

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.

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](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 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. 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.

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.

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.

Required Student Responsibilities Statement

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. Supportive Statement: I am 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. 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

The Lobo Den Tutoring Center offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments: Flexible options to fit your needs. Hours of Operation:

Monday–Friday,

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Workshops: Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional

development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty. Location: BWML Room 128.

Contact Us: For more

information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional

Support?

Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support

for ESL and
ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors. Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to
your Blackboard
account to get started anytime, anywhere. Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost
your confidence
and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

Important Dates:

August 25 First day of classes
August 28 Last day for late registration and schedule changes Payment deadline for students, 4
p.m.
September 1 Labor Day Holiday
September 10 Census day
October 20 Mid-term
November 7 Last day to drop a session I course with a 'W'. Drops must be processed and in the
University Reg
November 26-28 Thanksgiving
December 3 Last Class Day
December 5, 8-10 Final Examinations

Weekly Schedule:

Week	
1-8/27	Intro to Syllabus, Campus Resources
2-9/3	Fall on the Mall: Student Engagement Fair
3-9/10	E-mail/Blackboard/LoboOnLine/OneDrive Review
4-9/17	Note-taking/Study Skills/Learning Styles
5-9/24	Time Management
6-10/1	Workshop: Counseling (in Marshall Auditorium)
7-10/8	Motivation/Goal Setting
8-10/15	Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
9-10/22	Academic Advising
10-10/29	Sul Ross Organizations and Traditions
11-11/5	Financial Aid/Money Matters/Budgeting
12-11/12	Career Planning/Discipline Exploration
13-11/19	Library
14-11/26	Thanksgiving Break
15-12/3	Stress Management
16-12/5	Final Exam Friday Dec 5 th at 12:30 PM

