



SRSU 1101
First Year Seminar
Fall 2025

Dr. Hugh Morrissey
Assistant Professor - Kinesiology

Class: FYS SRSU 1101

Class Time: W 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm

Location: Room 106

Assistant Teacher: TBA

E-mail: hugh.morrissey@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8556

Office: Grace-Pierce 102a

- Available by appointment
- To schedule a meeting, please email or use the online booking link: [Schedule an Appointment](#)

Required Textbook: There is no required textbook/eBook.

Course Delivery:

- **Format:** Web-Delivered via Blackboard
All course materials, announcements, assignments, and assessments will be managed through the Blackboard learning platform.

Course Mission:

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

1. Develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for successful academic and non-academic participation.
 2. Appreciate multiple perspectives and reflect on intellectual and cultural diversity within and beyond the college experience.
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Course Description

The First-Year Seminar is designed to help students develop essential strategies and skills for a successful college experience. Through this course, students will explore topics such as:

- Transitioning to college life.
- Setting and achieving academic goals.
- Effective time management and organization.
- Learning and study techniques for college-level coursework.
- Test preparation and test-taking strategies.
- Understanding college policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Navigating and utilizing SRSU's digital resources (email, Blackboard, Lobo Online, and the SRSU website).
- Engaging with SRSU's resources, events, and its diverse cultural environment.

Throughout the course, students will develop critical thinking skills, make informed decisions, take responsibility for their academic success, and become independent, motivated learners.

Course Goals

All First-Year Seminars share five core goals. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Expand and deepen their understanding of the world and themselves.**
 2. **Enhance their ability to read and think critically.**
 3. **Communicate effectively** in various formats, including written, spoken, and visual communication.
 4. **Develop foundational information literacy** skills and utilize library research tools effectively.
 5. **Engage closely with the instructor and peers**, fostering a supportive learning community.
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Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Implement effective personal time management strategies aligned with short-term and long-term goals.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of personal responsibility for learning, including characteristics of an effective learner, strategies for student success, problem-solving of

academic challenges, and the importance of respect, civility, and academic integrity at SRSU.

3. Explain the institutional, departmental, and course requirements for earning a college degree and identify related SRSU policies.
 4. Identify and utilize SRSU's college resources, campus activities, and events while effectively using SRSU technology (student email, SRSU website, Blackboard, and Lobo Online).
 5. Demonstrate basic financial literacy skills applicable to college and beyond.
 6. Discuss the significance of SRSU within the broader community.
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Core Competencies Developed in This Course

1. Critical Thinking:

Students will develop critical thinking skills, including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

2. Communication:

Students will enhance their communication skills through effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas in written, oral, and visual formats.

3. 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.

Late Work Policy

- **Assignments, Projects, and Journals:**

- Submissions received **1-7 days late** will incur a **50% deduction** from the total possible points.
 - Submissions that are **more than one week late** require **prior approval from the professor** for grading consideration.
 - If approved by the professor, assignments submitted **over one week late** will receive a **minimum 50% deduction**.
 - It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor regarding any late submissions.
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Grade Breakdown (Subject to Modification by Instructor)

Assessment Component		Percentage	Points
Attendance and Participation		10%	100
Pre-Course Assignments		5%	50
Fall Organization Drive		5%	50
Email Etiquette Assignment		5%	50
Library Assignment		5%	50
Kinesiology Concentrations Assignment		5%	50
Counseling		5%	50
Services Available to SRSU Students Assignment		5%	50
SRSU Traditions Assignment		5%	50
Goal Setting Assignment		5%	50
Learning Style/Improving Memory Assignment		5%	50
Academic Advising Assignment		5%	50
Financial Aid Assignment		5%	50
Service Learning/Volunteer Activity		5%	50
Academic Integrity Assignment		5%	50
Final Exam		5%	50
Office Meeting with Professor		10%	100
Connecting with Students for Success Survey		5%	50
Total		100%	1000

Grading Scale (Subject to Modification by Instructor)**Grade Percentage Range Point Range**

A 90–100% 895–1000

B 80–89% 795–894

C 70–79% 695–794

D 60–69% 595–694

F Below 60% Below 595

- You can track your progress at any time by clicking on the “My Grades” tab in Blackboard.

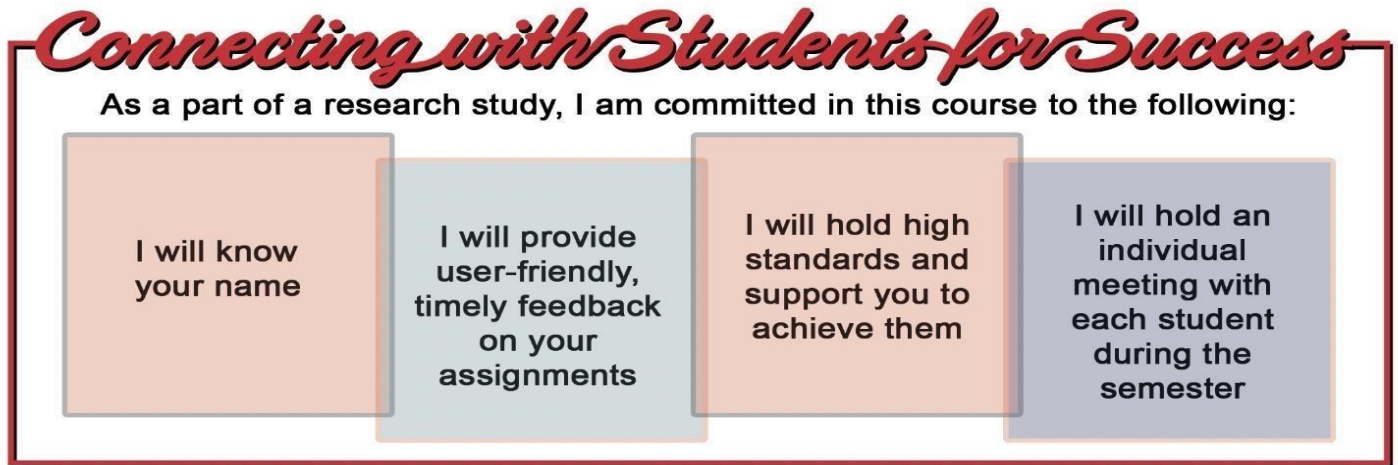
Tentative Course Calendar – Fall 2025

Week	Dates	Topic	Activities/Homework	Due Date
1	8/25 – 8/31 Last Day for	First Day of Class	- Pre-Course Check and Quiz	9/2

	Late Registration & Schedule Changes 8/28	Review Syllabus & BlackBoard	- Introduce Yourself Discussion and 2 Replies	
2	9/3	Student Engagement and Career Fair (Location UC)	- Attend Fall Organization Drive and Complete FOD Assignment	9/9
3	9/10	Email Etiquette, Phishing Awareness, OneDrive	- Complete Email Etiquette/Phishing/OneDrive Assignment	9/16
4	9/17	Exploring Kinesiology Concentrations	- Complete Kinesiology Concentrations Assignment	9/23
5	9/24	Student Support Services	- Career Services, Health Services, Tutoring, McNair Scholars Assignment	9/30
6	10/1	Workshop: Counseling (Marshall Auditorium)	- Complete the Counseling Assignment and Sign up for TimelyCare	10/7
7	10/8	Library Orientation (Meet at SRSU Library)	- Participate in Library Tour	10/14
8	10/15	Homecoming Week – SRSU Traditions	- Complete SRSU Traditions Assignment - CWSFS Office Meeting With Professor	10/21
9	10/22	Goal Setting Workshop	- Complete Goal Setting Assignment	10/28
10	10/29	Learning Styles and Memory Improvement	- Complete Learning Styles Assignment	11/4
11	11/5 Last Day to Withdraw w/ a “W” 11/7	Academic Advising and Degree Planning	- Review and Submit My Degree Plan Assignment	11/11
12	11/12	Financial Matters: Financial Aid and Budgeting	- Complete Financial Aid Assignment - CWSFS Student Survey	11/18
13	11/19	Service Learning / Volunteer Activity	- Participate in Service Learning Activity	11/25
14	11/26	Thanksgiving Holiday	- No Class, No Assignments	
15	12/3	Academic Integrity and Plagiarism	- Complete Academic Integrity Assignment	12/9
16	12/10	Final Exam	- Complete Final Journal Assignment	12/10

Notes:

- This calendar is **tentative** and subject to change at the instructor's discretion.
- All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 PM on the due date specified.
- Stay updated with course announcements and messages on Blackboard.



Connecting with Students for Success Initiative

This course is participating in a Sul Ross State University initiative known as “**Connecting with Students for Success.**” This program is designed to enhance student success by fostering stronger connections between students and faculty.

As part of this initiative, each student is **required to meet with me at least once during my office hours before October 19, 2025.** This meeting will be included as a graded component of the **Career Choice Project.**

Purpose of the Meeting:

- To discuss your progress on the Career Choice Project.
- To answer any questions or provide guidance related to your project.
- To gather feedback on your experience in the class.
- To discuss your overall experience at Sul Ross State University.

Scheduling Your Meeting:

- Please schedule your meeting by emailing me as soon as possible.
- My available office hours are listed on the first page of the syllabus.

- If you cannot attend during scheduled office hours, please contact me to discuss an alternative meeting time.
- I will do my best to accommodate your schedule.

This initiative is an excellent opportunity for us to connect individually, ensuring you have the support you need for a successful semester.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Statement)

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 or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, 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 mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@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.

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.

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 a 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.

Academic Integrity Statement

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.

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/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.

Libraries

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.

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.

Tutoring Center

[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!

Accidents & Injuries

In the case of bodily or personal property damage, the Kinesiology Department will not be held responsible. The student must report any field experience related to injury or illness to the instructor immediately. Any expense incurred due to injury or illness will be the student's responsibility.

Academic Civility Statement

Students are expected to interact with professors and peers in a respectful manner that enhances the learning environment. Professors may require a student who deviates from this expectation to leave the face-to-face (or virtual) classroom learning environment for that particular class session (and potentially subsequent class sessions) for a specific amount of time. In addition, the professor might consider the university disciplinary process (for Academic Affairs/Student Life) for egregious or continued disruptive behavior.

Academic Affairs Service Statement

Sul Ross faculty, staff, and students are expected to model responsible citizenship through service activities that promote personal and academic growth while enhancing the university, local, regional, national, and global communities. These activities will foster a culture of academic/public engagement that contributes to the achievement of the university's mission and core values.

Academic Excellence Statement

Sul Ross holds high expectations for students to assume responsibility for their own individual learning. Students are also expected to achieve academic excellence by:

- Honoring the core values of Sul Ross.
 - Upholding high standards of habit and behavior.
 - Maintaining excellence through class attendance and punctuality.
 - Preparing for active participation in all learning experiences.
 - Putting forth their best individual effort.
 - Continually improving as independent learners.
 - Engaging in extracurricular opportunities that encourage personal and academic growth.
 - Reflecting critically upon feedback and applying these lessons to meet future challenges.
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AI Policy Statement: Sul Ross State University Kinesiology Department

The Sul Ross State University Kinesiology Department is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and excellence. As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become increasingly accessible, we recognize their potential as valuable resources for learning and innovation. However, it is imperative that students use AI tools ethically and responsibly.

The improper use of AI in assignments, including but not limited to, generating content without proper attribution, submitting AI-generated work as one's own, or using AI tools to circumvent the learning process, constitutes academic dishonesty. Such actions undermine the educational goals of our programs and violate the University's Code of Conduct.

Students found to be improperly using AI for assignments may face severe consequences, including but not limited to receiving a failing grade for the assignment or course. Additionally, such

violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for further disciplinary action, which may include probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University.

We encourage students to seek guidance from their instructors if they have any questions about the appropriate use of AI in their coursework. Our department is committed to fostering an environment of integrity, where students can achieve their academic and professional goals through honest and meaningful engagement with their studies.