Fall 2024
First Year Seminar SRSU 1101 Course
Syllabus

Class: FYS SRSU 1101
Class Time: 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm on
Wednesdays Location: GPC 105
Instructor: Mary Powers
E-mail: mary.powers@sulross.edu
Phone: 432.837.8209
Office: GPC 102B
Office Hours: TBD

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.

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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.
Regarding Artificial Intelligence:

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.

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 Schwartze, 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.schwartze@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. 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.

Diversity Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that economic disparity, health concerns, or even unexpected life events could 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 an inclusive 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.

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: Can be accepted for partial credit. No late work accepted after Dead Day

Grade Breakdown/Assignments:

Gradable Item	Points	Percentage
Attendance	100	%10
Assignments	10 @ 80points ea. (800 pts)	%80
Final	100	%10
Total	1000	%100

*Grading Scale:

Letter Grading as per SRSU policy will be used in this course

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Activities/Homework
Aug. 27	First Day of Class	*Getting to know Instructor, classmates and purpose of class*
Sept. 3	Fall on the Mall: Student Engagement Fair	*Meet in the Mall for class. Instructor will be in mall with Attendance sheet to sign-in*
Sept. 10	Blackboard FAM	*Basics for accessing and operating blackboard*
Sept. 17	Workshop: Counseling (Location: Marshall Auditorium)	*Meeting at Marshal Auditorium for class. Sign-in with instructor*
Sept. 24	Note-Taking/ Chain of Command	*Skills/tips/tricks for effective note-taking and discussing appropriate chain of command at Sul Ross*
Oct. 1	Goal Setting	*Discuss and practice effective goal setting*
Oct. 8	Library	*Meet at Library entrance for class. Sign-in with instructor.*
Oct. 15	Financial Planning	*Discuss and practice effective financial planning and resources*
Oct.22	Academic Integrity	*Discuss academic integrity as an undergraduate and how to navigate AI appropriately*
Oct. 29	Campus Scavenger Hunt	*Meeting in class to separate into groups for Campus scavenger Hunt. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes for moving around campus*
Nov. 5	Degree Plan/Concertation	*Discuss current or projected majors and concertation for moving forward with degree at Sul Ross.*
Nov. 12	Campus Resources Activity	*Will discuss and locate majority of campus resources and primary contacts for each resource, i.e. recreation dept, food pantry, etc.*
Nov. 19	Service Leadership: Campus Clean-Up	*Meeting location TBD*
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Holiday!	*NO CLASS*
Dec. 3	Registration Worksheet	*Fill out registration for Spring Semester and confirm advisor and department information*

Dec. 10	Final Exam	*Final format TBD*

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The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.