

Syllabus | SRSU 1101
First Year Seminar
Spring 2026

Credit: 1 Dates: 1/14/26 – 5/5/26 Instructional Delivery: Online Synchronous Class Time: Tuesdays 11:00 – 11:50 am Location: Log in Weekly in Blackboard Collaborate		Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Haan E-mail: jennifer.haan@sulross.edu Phone: 575-636-7237 Office Hours via Teams T/W/TH 9am-2pm (CST)/8am-1pm (MST)
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Course Mission

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

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- 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.

Materials/Resources

- Blackboard Ultra access (via personal computer or SRSU computer labs)
 - Contact Online Support Desk for assistance
 - Phone: 888-837-6055
 - Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- SRSU email address (firstname.lastname@sulross.edu)
 - Contact Lobo Technology Assistance Center for assistance
 - LTAC Phone: 432-837-8888 (x8888)
 - Email: ltac@sulross.edu
- All readings and supplemental materials are provided in Blackboard

Technologies Prohibited by Regulation FAQ

The DIR maintains a list of Prohibited Technologies and Covered Applications, including software, applications, developers, hardware, equipment, and manufacturers, as well as technologies from any subsidiary or affiliate of an entity on DIR's list (e.g., a software studio or child company partially owned by a listed entity). More information regarding Prohibited Technologies and Covered Applications can be found on the [DIR Covered Applications and Prohibited Technologies webpage](#).

Question: What's the difference between a Covered Application and a Prohibited Technology?

	Covered Applications	Prohibited Technologies
Scope	Limited to certain social media applications and services (e.g., TikTok, Lemon8, RedNote).	Encompasses a broad set of software and hardware products and services.
Application	Prohibition only applies to university-owned computers and mobile devices.	Broad set of technical and administrative requirements.

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Exceptions	Exceptions are extremely limited. Law enforcement and Information Security Measures only. The university has no authority to make exceptions.	Limited exceptions can be authorized by the university President.
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Question: What's a mobile device?

For this policy, mobile devices include but are not limited to laptops, smart phones, tablets, smart watches, and e-readers.

Question: Can I access TikTok (or other prohibited software) on SRSU property as long as I'm using a personal device and my own data?

SRSU does not manage user's personal devices. Users with personal devices with prohibited technologies installed will be prohibited from entering sensitive locations and blocked on the university network if they connect to university-owned networks.

Question: Why does SRSU have to comply with the Governor's Directive on Prohibited technologies?

SRSU is a public university and a state agency and is therefore subject to complying with requirements set by the Office of the Governor, rules set by regulatory agencies, and legislative mandates passed into law. Further, the Texas State University System issues policies corresponding to similar compliance requirements.

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.

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

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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 online counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://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.

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.

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:

- 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.

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 instructor; 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.

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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.

University Policy Regarding Use of General Artificial Intelligence (GAI or AI)

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.

Instructor Policy Regarding Use of General Artificial Intelligence (GAI or AI)

Students are invited to use AI platforms to help prepare for assignments and projects (e.g., to help with brainstorming or to see what a completed essay might look like). I also welcome you to use AI tools to help revise and edit your work (e.g., to help identify flaws in reasoning, spot confusing or underdeveloped paragraphs, or to simply fix citations). When submitting work, students must clearly identify any writing, text, or media generated by AI. In this course, parts of essays, discussion posts, or constructed responses in tests/quizzes generated by AI should appear in a different colored font. Additionally, the relationship between AI-generated text and student contributions must be explained in writing in cover letters that accompany the essay submission or disclaimers when submitting constructed responses or discussion posts.

Grade Breakdown/Assignments:

This course is organized into learning “modules” by week and by topic. For each module you will earn two grades:

1) Class Meetings and Activities: 30 points

This grade is earned by your participation in class meetings and activities for the module. Naturally, this requires your attendance at each synchronous (virtual) class meeting every Tuesday, unless otherwise noted in the schedule. Failure to attend a class meeting will result in a score of “0” for in-class participation of the module. If an emergency arises in which you cannot attend a class meeting, an alternative assignment will be given to you to make up for your class participation grade.

2) Blackboard Assignments: 70 points

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This grade is earned by demonstrating your understanding of the learning objectives for each module by completing a follow-up mini-assignment that you will submit to Blackboard before the Saturday after the class meeting or activity. Failure to submit an assignment will result in a score of “0” for the assignment. Late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and ONLY if there is an unforeseen emergency.

There is a total of 14 modules in this course. So total points possible for the course are 1400, which will be broken down into an overall percentage for your final grade. See grading scale below.

Grading Scale:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 50 – 59% You will be required to re-take this course if you earn less than a 60%

Attendance & Class Participation

Your attendance and participation at ALL class meetings and activities is required. You will earn 30 points each time you attend and participate in a class meeting or class activity. If you show up more than 10 minutes late, you will earn 15 points. If you miss an entire class meeting or activity, you will earn “0” points. If an emergency arises in which you cannot attend a class meeting or activity, an alternative assignment will be given to you to make up for your class participation grade.

Honestly...it will just make your life easier to show up on-time for each class meeting or each class activity every time! Having to complete an alternative assignment takes more than double the amount of time as opposed to just showing up to class!

Resubmitting Assignments for a Higher Score/Grade

If you do not earn the score/grade you want for an assignment, you may revise your assignment and resubmit for a higher score or grade. Please ask your instructor if you would like to resubmit an assignment.

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Course Schedule: Put These Dates in a Calendar!

Required Class Meeting	Blackboard Module/ Topic	Required Activities	Assignment Due Dates (before 10:59pm)
Tuesday January 20 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 1: First Day of Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review syllabus/Blackboard modules 	Take Syllabus Quiz in Blackboard before Saturday, January 24
Tuesday January 27 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 2: Advocating for Yourself as a Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you need to learn best? • Checking your grades 	Upload mini essay in Blackboard before January 31
Tuesday February 3 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 3: Emailing Your Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of an email • Using Microsoft Office Email 	Send email to instructor before Saturday, Saturday, February 7
Tuesday February 10 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 4: Virtual Meeting with Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a meeting • Using Microsoft Office Teams 	Set up and attend 1-1 Meeting with instructor using Teams before Saturday, February 14
Tuesday February 17 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 5: Time Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why plan? • Using Microsoft Office Calendar 	Set up and share Calendar before Saturday, February 21
Tuesday February 24 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 6: Note-taking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why take notes? • When do I take notes? • Tools to take notes 	Upload notes in Blackboard before Saturday, February 28
Tuesday March 3 NO CLASS MEETING	Module 7: Career Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend in-person Career Fair in Morgan University Center at 11:00am 	Upload signed document in Blackboard before Saturday March 7
Tuesday March 10 NO CLASS MEETING	Spring Break	None	None
Tuesday March 17 NO CLASS MEETING	Instructor at Conference	None	None
Tuesday March 24 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 8: Academic Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is academic integrity? • Consequences • Acceptable use of AI 	Complete Discussion post/response in Blackboard before Saturday, March 28
Tuesday March 31 NO CLASS MEETING	Module 9: Financial Aid and Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend in-person Financial Aid Tour in Lawrence Hall 100 at 11:00am 	Upload signed attendance document in Blackboard before Saturday, April 4
Tuesday April 7 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 10: Saving and Sharing Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Formatting of Paper • Using Microsoft One Drive 	Set up and share file in OneDrive before Saturday, April 11
Tuesday April 14 NO CLASS MEETING	Module 11: Preparing for Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will schedule and attend an in-person meeting with Lobo Den Advisor in Bryan Wildenthal Library 135 	Upload signed attendance document in Blackboard before Saturday April 18
Tuesday April 21 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 12: Goal Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of a SMART Goal 	Share SMART Goals in One Drive before Saturday, April 25
Tuesday April 28 NO CLASS MEETING	Module 13: Library Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend in-person Library Tour at 11:00am in Bryan Wildenthal Library Building 	Upload signed attendance document in Blackboard before Saturday, May 2
Tuesday May 5 11:00am – 11:50am	Module 14: Paying it Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons to pass down 	Upload letter to a first-year student in Blackboard before Saturday, May 9