

Sul Ross State University

First Year Seminar

Fall 2026

CJ 1101 Syllabus

Instructor: Benjamin Barrientes, J.D.

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Class hour: Wednesday, 1:00-1:50 PM

Classroom: MAB 107

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday 1:00 - 1:50 p.m.

Mission:

The mission of First-Year Seminar is to provide first-year students an opportunity (1) to experience and develop knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes that promote successful college study and positive campus participation, and (2) to appreciate multiple perspectives that 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 career. 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 the same five common goals. The student will be able to:

1. expand and deepen his/her understanding of the world and of self
2. enhance his/her ability to read and think critically
3. enhance his/her 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 Faculty

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.
3. Describe institution, department, and course requirements to earn a college degree and be able to identify SRSU policies in relation to them.

4. Identify and/or utilize college resources, activities, and events and demonstrate 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.

Attendance & Class Participation:

Your attendance and participation in this course are reflected in your grade. See specifics on this in the course grade section.

Classroom Behaviors:

You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in class discussions, ***ask questions***, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful of others by avoiding disruptive behaviors such as side conversations, cell phone use, arriving late, leaving early, etc. See additional notes below.

Academic Honesty:

“The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.”

--Excerpt from the Student Handbook

Special Needs:

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning challenge, please contact the ADA Coordinator in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Alpine, TX 79832. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Late Work: The “Golden Rule” for all of your classes, including this one, is submitting the assignments on time. No late work will be accepted without previous conversation

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance	100 points
Participation, In-class assignments	100 points
Quizzes, Campus Activities	100 points
Homework and other Blackboard assignments	100 points
Resume Preparation	100 points
Degree plan preparation	100 points
Title IX Training Completion	100 points
Service Learning Project	100 points
CSI Reflection Paper	100 points
Library visit	100 points
Total	1000 points

Grading Scale:

900-1000 =A

800-899 =B

700-799 =C

600-699=D

Below 600=F

Course schedule available separately.