



EDUA 1101 First Year Seminar Fall 2026

Class: EDUA 1101

Class Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00 – 1:50 PM

Instructor: Dr. Shelly Landreth

Office: MAB 305B

Phone: 432.837.8220

Credit: 1

Location: MAB 308

E-mail: shelly.landreth@sulross.edu

Office Hours: TBA

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. Students will:

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 be able to:

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 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. Enhance critical thinking skills to include logic, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
8. Enhance oral, visual and written communication skills.

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Connecting with Students for Success Initiative:

This course is part of the SRSU Connecting with Students for Success initiative. This initiative is aimed at connecting with students in a way that sets them up for success overall. As part of this initiative, each student will be required to meet with me at my office (MAB 305B) **no later than September 3rd**. This is part of your grade in this course (worth 100 points for the meeting and 50 points for the email). This meeting must be scheduled through an email (using the instructions provided). The email must be sent **no later than August 28th**. During these meetings, we will discuss any questions you have, any resources you may need, and the class assignments and expectations. As you are reading the syllabus during the first week of class, please take note of any questions you have.

As part of this initiative, I am committed to the items in the figure below.



Course Materials:

All of the materials for this class will be provided in class or on Blackboard. You will need to access Blackboard on a personal device or on a computer in the library.

Course Grading & Assignments

Your grade in this class will be determined **by the number of points you earn by the end of the semester**. The point distribution is listed below:

Grade	Points
A	895-1000 points
B	795-894 points
C	695-794 points
D	595-694 points
F	Below 595 points

You can track your progress by clicking on the “My Grades” tab in Blackboard. You can also view grading rubrics for each assignment in the “My Grades” tab. If I leave you additional feedback outside of the rubric, you will see a



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message bubble in the grading center. **PLEASE NOTE: As mentioned above, the grade for this class is based on POINTS, not the average Blackboard gives you.**

Points Distribution

Assignment	Points
Attendance & Participation in Class Activities	200 points
Discussion Board–Introduction Post	50 points
Syllabus Quiz	20 points
Email Assignment	50 points
Office Meeting with Professor	100 points
Career Fair Card	50 points
Career Assessment	100 points
SRSU Engagement Card	80 points
Class Service Activity	100 points
Registration Exercise	100 points
Final Presentation/Exam	150 points
Total	1000 points

Explanation of Assignments:

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION/CLASS ENGAGEMENT: Attendance and participation are worth 200 points in this class. Please come prepared to participate. Being prepared to participate means:

- You have paper and writing utensils to take notes
- You have removed all distractions—computer and phone are off and stowed away, earbuds are removed, etc. (unless otherwise directed or approved through accommodations)
- **You are on time, and you stay for the entire class**
- You refrain from distracting other students during class
- You fully participate in discussions and other activities

Your participation grade will be based on the items above.

Attendance will be taken via a sign-in sheet at the beginning of class and recorded in Blackboard. You are responsible for signing in upon your arrival.

DISCUSSION BOARD–INTRODUCTION POST: To better familiarize you with Blackboard and each other, you will need to post an introduction post to the discussion board during the first week of class (see course schedule for due date). Instructions and rubrics will be provided on Blackboard.



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SYLLABUS QUIZ: You need to read the syllabus carefully during the first week of class and complete the syllabus quiz on Blackboard found in the Week 2 folder. You will have ONE attempt (see course schedule for due date).

EMAIL ASSIGNMENT: To help you practice appropriate email etiquette and to facilitate the scheduling of your meeting with the professor, you will complete an email assignment (see course schedule for due date). Instructions and rubrics will be provided on Blackboard.

OFFICE MEETING WITH PROFESSOR: By September 3, you will need to complete your meeting with the professor. Instructions and rubrics will be provided on Blackboard.

CAREER FAIR CARD: On August 26th, instead of meeting in our regular location, we will meet at the University Center and attend the Student Engagement and Career Fair. In order to get credit for this, you must complete the Career Fair Card. The card will be handed out when we meet at the fair, and it must be handed in before you leave the fair.

CAREER ASSESSMENT: This career assessment will be done during class around the mid-semester. Once complete, we will explore the results together.

SRSU ENGAGEMENT CARD: In order to promote the full college experience and your engagement with the campus community, you will complete an SRSU Engagement Card. This includes a series of activities you will participate in by November 16. Instructions and rubrics will be provided on Blackboard.

CLASS SERVICE ACTIVITY: Early this semester, we will discuss options for a class service activity that we will do together during several class sessions later in the semester.

REGISTRATION EXERCISE: To facilitate and incentivize early Spring 2027 registration, you will complete a registration activity by November 30. The instructions and a rubric will be provided on Blackboard.

FINAL PRESENTATION/EXAM: At the end of the semester, you will present reflections on the semester, as well as highlights from the class and what you learned in your first semester as a college student. Instructions and a basic presentation outline will be provided on Blackboard. These presentations will take place during the scheduled exam time for this class.

Weekly Schedule

**All assignments completed outside of class are due at 11:59 pm on the due date*

Wk	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	8.24	First Day of Class 😊 Introduction to the Course & Learning Community	→ Read syllabus this week → Letter to Teacher (in class)
	8.26	Student Engagement & Career Fair (meet at University Center)	→ Attend Career Fair and complete Career Fair Card (in class) → DB-Intro Post due by 8.28 → Email assignment due by 8.28



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2	8.31	SRSU Technology Tutorial with Tim Parsons	→ Syllabus Quiz due by 9.2 → Meeting with the Professor due by 9.3 → In-class activities → Meet at the Library (front entrance)
	9.2	Library Field Trip	
3	9.7	No Classes, University Closed: Labor Day Holiday	
	9.9	No Class: Dr. Landreth at AASCU *communication may be delayed	
4	9.14	College vs. HS The Importance of the Syllabus	→ In-class activities
	9.16	Academic Integrity & AI Literacy	→ In-class activities
5	9.21	Goal Setting & Organization Strategies Initial Planning for Class Service Activity	→ In-class activities
	9.23	Backwards Mapping & Time Management Strategies	→ In-class activities
6	9.28	Academic Reading & Reading to Learn Strategies	→ In-class activities
	9.30	R2L continued	→ In-class activities
7	10.5	Note Taking & Writing to Learn Strategies	→ In-class activities
	10.7	W2L continued	→ In-class activities
8	10.12	No Class: Dr. Landreth at CSOTTE *communication may be delayed	
	10.14	SRSU Traditions (Homecoming Week)	→ In-class activities
9	10.19	Career Assessment	→ Career Assessment Activity (in-class)
	10.21	Career Assessment Results Review	→ Career Assessment Activity (in-class)
10	10.26	DegreeWorks & Registration Tools	→ In-class activities → CSS Survey (will launch Oct 26-Nov 6)
	10.28	Financial Literacy	→ In-class activities
11	11.2	Education Topics and/or Service Activity	→ In-class activities → CSS Survey (will launch Oct 26-Nov 6)
	11.4	No Class: Dr. Landreth at ALER *communication may be delayed	
12	11.9	Education Topics and/or Service Activity	→ In-class activities
	11.11	Education Topics and/or Service Activity	→ In-class activities
13	11.16	Education Topics and/or Service Activity	→ In-class activities
	11.18	Education Topics and/or Service Activity	→ SRSU Engagement Card due on 11.18
14	11.23	NO CLASS: Work on Final Presentation/Exam	
	11.25	No Classes, University Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday	
15	11.30	Education Topics and/or Service Activity	→ Registration Exercise Due on 11.30



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- 12.2 Last Class of Day 😊 → In-class activities
- 16 Finals Week: **Final Presentation/Exam** (see Exam Schedule)

Other Important Dates

- 8.24 First Day of Classes
- 8.26 Fall Career Fair
- 8.27 Last day for late registration and schedule changes
- 9.7 Labor Day holiday; no classes
- 9.9 Last day to drop a 16-week term course without creating an academic record
- 10.16 - 10.18 Homecoming Weekend
- 11.2 Registration for Spring 2027 opens
- 11.6 Last day to drop a 16-week course with a 'W'
- 11.25 - 11.27 Thanksgiving Day holiday (begins after the last scheduled class meets on Tuesday, November 25th)
- 12.2 Last class day before finals
- 12.3 Dead Day
- 12.4, 12.7 - 12.9 Final Examinations
- 12.11 Fall Commencement Alpine, Pete P. Gallego Center, 5:30 p.m.

Shared Expectations:

What You Can Expect From Me:

- I will provide email responses within 24 hours of receipt during the hours of 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- I will provide grades and feedback for assignments within one week of the submission due date.
- I will provide clear and concise instructions on how to complete the course requirements.
- I will provide a range of opportunities to engage in the course content in a meaningful way.
- I will approach this class and all interactions with you with sincere care and concern for you and your classmates.

What I Expect From You:

- You will check your SRSU email daily and your Blackboard shell at least every other day.
- You will familiarize yourself with the course syllabus, policies, assessments, evaluation, grading criteria, and course design.
- You will acquire the tools necessary to be successful in this class. This includes paper, writing utensils, reliable Internet access, and a device other than your phone for completing assignments.
- You will complete all coursework by assigned due dates.
- You will take the time to review feedback I provide to avoid repeating mistakes.



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- You will engage in the course, with your peers, and with me, using open, appropriate, and respectful communication
- You will be diligent about using communication in a way that shows respect to me and your classmates.
- You will submit college-level work that has been checked carefully for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation (using a free extension like Grammarly is recommended).
- You will respond to communication from me and your classmates in a timely manner (within 24 hours).
- You will not plagiarize the work of others or yourself.
 - You will reach out to me immediately if you are having trouble in the class or with access to course materials. For general access issues or technical help, please call the Help Desk--888.837.6055.

Other Course & University Policies & Resources

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 engaging 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. ***In this course, every element of the coursework must be fully prepared by the student. The use of generative AI for any part of your work will be treated as plagiarism.*** 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.

As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/>

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

LATE WORK:

All assignments in this class have due dates, and you are expected to submit work by the due dates. If you have extenuating circumstances, you need to communicate with me as soon as possible, and we will discuss any due date adjustments that are appropriate. If you submit late work without an approved extension from me, I reserve the right not to grade it. IMPORTANT NOTE: Since university-related travel (e.g., travel for athletics competition) is planned in advance (with a few exceptions), make sure to plan ahead. Please consult with me if you have concerns about how your university-related travel will impact a submission deadline. This needs to be done BEFORE you leave and before the deadline.

COURSE BLACKBOARD RESOURCES:



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There are several resources on the course Blackboard page. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class. NOTE: Please post general, course-related questions to the discussion board forum I have set up for this. Typically, if one student in the class has the question, others do as well. Please allow 24 hours for a response, and then feel free to email me or call me directly with your question.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 Tiffany Telesca, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility and Counseling Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email tiffany.telesca@sulross.edu or AccessibilityServices@sulross.edu. Office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

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.

COUNSELING SERVICES:

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 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.

LIBRARY INFORMATION:

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.

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.



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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 SERVICES:

- The Tutoring and Learning Center is located in the library (call 432.837.8983 to make a tutoring appointment).
- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) (online tutoring services available--access via Blackboard Tools)--be sure to allow 48 hours turnaround time for a writing assignment.