

SUL ROSS

RIO GRANDE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Class: GBAA1101

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

Instructor: Jawanna Sanderson, CPA

Office: MAB 309-J

Phone:

Credit: 1

Location: BAB 318

E-mail: jawanna.sanderson@sulross.edu

Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Office hours can also be scheduled by appointment.

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.

Course Materials-Required: Blackboard Ultra access (via personal device or SRSU computer labs); SRSU email address (firstname.lastname@sulross.edu)

Supplemental Materials: (Provided through SR Blackboard)

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 value intellectual and cultural perspectives within and beyond college.

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 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.

SACSCOC Learning Outcomes (SACSCOC)

1. Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.;
2. Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Course Grading

Weekly Homework & In Class Activities	45%
Blackboard Activity Quizzes	20%
Meeting with Professor	10%
Fall Activities "Punch Card"	10%
BB Discussions	10%
Attendance	5%
Total	100%

Your grade will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	69% or below

Student Wellness:

SRSU strives to create a culture of support and recognizes that your mental health and wellness are equally as important as your physical health. We want you to know it is OK if you experience difficulty, and there are several resources on campus to help you succeed emotionally, personally, and academically. Please know that if you choose to confide in me, I am required by the university to report to the Title IX Coordinator, as SRSU and I want to ensure that you are connected with all the support the university can offer. You are not required to respond to outreach from the university if you do not want to do so. You can also make a report yourself, including an anonymous report, through the [SRSU Title IX Report Form](#).

SRSU Accessibility Services

Alpine Campus

SRSU Accessibility Services. 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. To help protect confidentiality, students seeking accessibility/accommodation(s) services must submit the Accommodation Request Form located on our website. Students are welcome to call the Office of Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or stop by Ferguson Hall Room 112 if they have any additional questions regarding the process. Our mailing address is PO Box C-122; Alpine, TX; 79832.

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](#). 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 Sul Ross State University International students.

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.

Distance Education

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.

Library Information:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine 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 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 phone (432-837-8123). 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/texshare

Academic Honesty Policy:

Sul Ross State University expects all students to conduct themselves as honest, responsible and law-abiding members of the academic community and to respect the rights of other students, members of the faculty and staff and the public to use, enjoy and participate in the University programs and facilities. For additional information, reference the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

Students are full partners in fostering a classroom environment conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class; students are prohibited from engaging in any form of behavior that detracts from the learning experience of fellow students. Inappropriate behavior will result in a request for the offending student to leave class.

Opposing perspectives are welcomed and encouraged. Nevertheless, class participants are expected to treat one another with the respect and dignity to which all community members are entitled. Nothing less than such democratic behavior will be acceptable. I support an inclusive learning environment where diversity and differently-abled individuals/groups are appreciated, recognized and respected. All SRSU community members will demonstrate diligence in understanding how peoples' perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews enhance us all as individuals and as a community.

Hands-on participation is essential for successful completion of this course; therefore, each class member must come prepared, both physically and mentally, to take part in each class activity. Through experiential activities, students will individually and collaboratively solve problems, make decisions, reflect on past and current practices, and engage in dialogue. For this pedagogy to be successful, student participation is critical. Each student enrolled must

access course content through Blackboard AND review the assigned materials PRIOR to attending class. Other specific classroom rules will be discussed as appropriate.

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.

Use of Generative AI in Course

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.

In this Course:

The emergence of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT and DALL-E) has sparked interest among many students in our discipline. The use of these tools for brainstorming ideas, exploring possible responses to questions or problems, and creative engagement with the materials may be useful for you as you craft responses to class assignments. While there is no substitute for working directly with your instructor, the potential for generative AI tools to provide automatic feedback, assistive technology and language assistance is clearly developing. *Please feel free to reach out to me well in advance of the due date of assignments for which you may be using generative AI tools, and I will be happy to discuss what is acceptable.*

In this course, students shall give credit to AI tools whenever used, even if only to generate ideas rather than usable text or illustrations. When using AI tools on

assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange, highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used (e.g. ChatGPT private subscription version or DALL-E free version), (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, turns of phrase, elements of text, long stretches of text, lines of argument, pieces of evidence, maps of the conceptual territory, illustrations of key concepts, etc.); (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to handle mounting stress, to clarify prose, to translate text, to experiment for fun, etc.). Students shall not use AI tools during in-class examinations, or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed. Overall, AI tools should be used wisely and reflectively with an aim to deepen understanding of subject matter.

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.

It is my intent, as course instructor, that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and beyond the course, and that the multiplicity students bring to this course be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of all students.

Your suggestions about how to improve the value of this course are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

At SRSU, we support learning environments where individual and cultural differences are appreciated, recognized, respected and understood. We shall hold each other accountable to demonstrate diligence in recognizing and respecting differing behaviors, perspectives and worldviews. In addition, in scheduling assignments, I have attempted to avoid conflicts with major religious/cultural holidays. If, however, I have inadvertently scheduled a major deadline that creates a conflict with your religious/cultural observances, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make other arrangements.

Classroom Etiquette & Cell Phone/Laptop Policy

We will be participating in discussions and interacting with each other throughout this course. It is important for all students to be respectful and kind to one another, regardless of any differences. The course requires respect to be shown, always.

Cell phone and laptop usage should be limited. The professor reserves the right to change this to **zero usage**, if their usage is not limited and the classroom environment is not respected. Limited use means that you should only be on these devices to access course materials, and/or to take notes. Any evidence of using these devices for other course work, videos, music etc. will result in a ban on these devices in the classroom unless specifically being used for an activity, with express permission given. Be respectful of your time and your professor's time.

Headphones and ear buds are NOT to be worn at any time during class.

Copyright Notice for Course Materials:

U.S. copyright laws protect this syllabus, course presentations, all Blackboard™ materials and any other course materials provided throughout this term. Students enrolled in the course may use materials for their own educational purposes within the Educational Fair Use policy of the U.S. Copyright Office. However, reproducing, selling or otherwise distributing these materials in any manner or medium without written permission of the copyright owner is expressly prohibited.

Electronic video and/or audio recording is not permitted during class/lab unless the student obtains written permission from the instructor. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited.

Additional Detailed Information For You:

Add /Drop Policy:

This course will follow the University add/drop policy and timeline. See the course schedule or academic schedule on SRSU website for this information.

Assignment Policy:

It is expected that assignments will be submitted on or before the specified due date. Any weekly assignments will **NOT** be accepted late. Quizzes or major grades will be accepted late with a **10% penalty**. You will need to discuss this with your professor *before* submitting the late work.

Any Blackboard homework assignments and/or quizzes will be due **on Friday's at 10 p.m.** Please see the course schedule for additional information.

Attendance:

Attendance of the face-to-face course will count towards your grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every course session. If you are more than 10 minutes late (20% of our scheduled class time), you might not be counted as present. Course announcements are given at the beginning of class, so it is crucial to be on time. Class participants will be treated as mature individuals who have developed a sense of responsibility for their education. As such, you will be held accountable for all material covered in class, despite valid reasons for absence. Attendance will be recorded at each class session. In the case of emergency, students should contact the instructor as soon as possible after the emergency situation has been resolved. Documentation of a "university excused absence" will allow the student to make up missed work.

Health-Related Absences:

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and other on-campus events if you are ill. Students who miss class due to illness will be given opportunities to access course materials online or will be given additional time to complete the work. Please communicate as soon as possible with your professor to make these arrangements. In the event of contagious illness, please do not come to class or to campus to turn in work. Instead notify the instructor by email about your absence as soon as practical, so that accommodations can be made. Please note that documentation (a Doctor's note) for medical excuses is **not** required.

Collaboration:

Unless otherwise specified, students may not collaborate on graded material. Any exceptions to this policy will be stated explicitly for individual assignments. If you have any questions about the limits of collaboration, you are expected to ask for clarification.

Course Communication:

Communication is a two-way interaction. Students are highly encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback to your professor. You are encouraged to stop by during office hours, reach out to schedule an appointment outside of office hours, and/or email your professor for help related to assignments or other comments/questions you might have.

My preferred method of contact is through SRSU email compared to Blackboard messages and/or phone calls. SRSU email is the quickest way to get a response from the professor, as this email is checked throughout the day and notifications are received on the professor's cell phone. Notifications from Blackboard are not received unless Blackboard is logged into. I will commit to responding to email during the week within 24 hours. Please see the course expectations for additional communication information.