

SRSU 1101

Course Syllabus

Fall 2026

Class: SRSU 1101
Class Time: Online Asynchronous
Instructor: Bernie Cantens
Office: BAB 202
Phone: 432.837.8866

Credit: 1
Location: Online Asynchronous
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Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00-12:00

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 civic participation, and
2. Appreciate multiple perspectives and reflect deeply on intellectual, cultural and political issues within and beyond college.

Cours Description

First-Year Seminar is designed to help students develop strategies and skills necessary for a successful college experience. Topics include advocating for yourself, emailing your instructor, time management, not taking, artificial intelligence, career planning, academic integrity, financial literacy and planning, goal setting, meeting with counselor and advisor, and library resources. 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 and habits 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.

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8. Develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Attendance & Class Participation

Although this course is online and asynchronous, you are still expected to be **present and actively engaged** with the course materials. Regularly log in to Blackboard, review course materials, participate in assigned activities, and complete your work according to the course schedule. Your engagement with the Blackboard course site is recorded, and instructors have access to this information. Students who are not actively engaging with the course materials or participating in course activities for **more than two weeks** may be at risk of being administratively withdrawn from the course. **Online does not mean you are on your own. Stay engaged, stay connected, and take responsibility for your learning.**

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

Supplemental Materials: (Provided through SR Blackboard)

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.

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 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.

Virtual Climate of Respect and Success

1. Be present and engaged.

Log in regularly, complete assignments on time, participate in discussions, and stay

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actively involved in the course.

2. Communicate proactively and respectfully.

Communicate with instructors and classmates in a timely, professional, and respectful manner. If you are struggling or anticipate missing a deadline, reach out early.

3. Take responsibility for your learning.

Manage your time, follow the course schedule, read instructions carefully, seek help when needed, and take ownership of your academic progress.

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 based on 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](https://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.

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.

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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.

Late Work

Grade Breakdown/Assignments

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|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Quizzes: | 42 points |
| 2. Essays: | 28 points |
| 3. : | 10 points |
| 4. : | 10 points |
| 5. : | 10 points |

Grading Scale

100-90 A, 89-80 B, 79-70 C, 69-60 D, 59-0 F

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Preparation/Assignments
Week 1 8/24-8/28	Getting Started	
Week 1 8/24-8/28	Understanding the Syllabus	Multiple choice quiz
Week 2 8/31-9/4	Understanding your Learning Style	Essay
Week 3 9/7-9/11	Emailing your instructor	Send an email to your instructor to set up a

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		virtual meeting.
Week 4 9/14-9/18	Virtual Meeting with Instructor	Attend the virtual meeting
Week 5 9/21-9/25	Time Management	Create a discussion Post
Week 6 9/28-10/2	Note Taking	Upload lecture notes from one of your courses
Week 7 10/5-10/9	Artificial Intelligence	Essay
Week 8 10/12-10/16	Career Planning	Essay
Week 9 10/19-10/23	Academic Integrity	Discussion Board
Week 10 10/26-10/30	Financial Literacy and Budgeting	Make a budget worksheet Essay
Week 11 11/3-11/6	Goal Setting	Create a SMART goal
Week 12 11/10-11/13	Meeting with Counselor or Advisor	Upload evidence that you met with you advisor
Week 13 11/15-11/20	Library Resources	Scavenger Hunt using online library services
Week 14 11/30-12/4	Paying it Forward	Send a message to next year's first year seminar students.

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Topics

1. Understanding the Syllabus
2. Understanding your Learning Style
3. Emailing your instructor
4. Virtual Meeting with Instructor
5. Time Management
6. Note Taking
7. Career Planning
8. Academic Integrity
9. Financial Literacy and Budgeting
10. Goal Setting
11. Meeting with Counselor or Advisor
12. Library Resources
13. Paying it Forward

Assignments

This course has 15 assignments.

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Start Here Module | 2 points |
| 2. Syllabus Quiz | 7 points |
| 3. Your Learning Style | 7 points |
| 4. Email to Professor | 7 points |
| 5. Virtual Meeting | 7 points |
| 6. Time Management | 7 points |
| 7. Note Taking | 7 points |
| 8. Artificial Intelligence | 7 point |
| 9. Career Planning | 7 points |
| 10. Academic Integrity | 7 points |
| 11. Financial Literacy and Budgeting | 7 points |
| 12. Goal Setting | 7 points |
| 13. Meeting with Counselor or Advisor | 7 points |
| 14. Library Resources | 7 points |
| 15. Paying it Forward | 7 points |

Total	100 points
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