Learning Frameworks  
PSYC1300  
Brazosport College

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Office Hours: Prior to class, after class or by appointment  
Adjunct office is located in the Student Success Center - E211

WELCOME:  
Well done! By enrolling in this course you are showing that you take your college experience seriously and intend to become a learner who takes responsibility for his/her academic success.

I hope you will not only learn a lot in this course but you will find it fun and engaging. Each lesson is made up of a series of different activities so you won’t be expected to listen to me lecture the whole time! In fact, I hope we will co-create the experience by fully participating in the discussions, being an active member of the various peer-group activities, and communicating to me your thoughts and suggestions about the material I am about to share with you.

This course will only be challenging for anyone who refuses to bring 100% commitment to each lesson. That’s not you...so let us look forward to you earning an A!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course has been designed to expose students to a very different experience to what they may have had in other courses - in terms of:  
  • A welcoming environment  
  • Strong community-building component – including establishing trust with the instructor and clarifying course expectations in a fun, inclusive way  
  • Stimulating motivation for attendance and participation  
  • Connecting the purpose of this course (both for math success and overall success in college) with the student's personal interests and future direction.

The various topics being covered include: goal-setting, effective time management, note-taking strategies, how to undo “bad” academic habits, test-taking strategies, how to read a math textbook, and much, much more.

REQUIRED READINGS/SUPPLIES:  
The instructor will occasionally distribute reading assignments. Students are required to read all assigned material. The reading load is not designed to be heavy. As with any lecture or discussion material, any reading material is fair game for exams, quizzes, or in-class discussions.

Books to be used in class:  
College Rules by Sherrie Nist-Olejnik, PhD and Jodi Patrick Holschuh, PhD  
ISBN# 978-1-60774-001-8

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcom Gladwell  
ISBN # 97800-316-01793-0

Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a
textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from in independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Binder should be 2-2 1/2” thick
Please have 4 tabs: syllabus, journals, notes, assignments/quizzes. Keep all assignments and quizzes until you receive your final grade.

Save all your assignments and quizzes until you receive your final grade in MyBc.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:
A student’s enrollment in this class acknowledges he/she intends to learn course material. To that extent, certain behaviors that would impede this process will not be permitted. These include, but are not limited to, reading newspapers or books, text-messaging, surfing the web, answering cell phones, talking out of turn, etc. If you are not sure what is appropriate, please ask me. Students are responsible for knowing and following common sense rules of behavior. I am committed to creating and maintaining an open and productive intellectually engaging learning environment. Disruptive students will be instructed to leave the classroom – this is college, warnings will not be issued. Please also read the RESPECTFUL CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR document (Appendix A) for more information about appropriate behaviors and classroom expectations.

As a college student, you are expected to conduct yourself as a responsible adult. This includes, but is not limited to, attending class, seeking academic help, and addressing any problems you may have directly with your instructors, rights and responsibilities of BC students are outlined in the BC Student Handbook and Calendar.

OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL WARNING:
This is a college course and students should know that anything is fair game. The college classroom is a unique place in society where any ideas, opinions, and perspectives are welcomed and should be shared—respectfully. Students will find some of the material offensive, as they should. No inappropriate language.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this semester, through class lectures, videos, discussions, in-class activities, and a variety of written and other assignments, you will increase your written and oral communication skills, critical thinking abilities, and toolbox of study strategies.

HIGH LEVEL COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Students demonstrate a positive mindset toward learning and maintain motivation.
2. Students develop a process through which they change negative, self-defeating habits into positive habits.
3. Students make personal connections with peers, their instructor, and other campus support personnel.
4. Students develop and pursue useful goals.
5. Students demonstrate organization of time and study materials.
6. Students describe how to store and retrieve information from their memory.
7. Students demonstrate effective reading and note-taking strategies that enhance retention and comprehension.
8. Students distinguish effective test-taking strategies to be used before, during, and after taking a test.
9. Students employ critical thinking skills when approaching challenging tasks.
10. Students demonstrate written and oral communication that is appropriate to context and that effectively conveys meaning and logic.
11. Students identify future college and career pathways.
12. Students locate and use support center services.
13. Students use technology throughout the course.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are required to complete all assignments, participate in class discussions and submit all written work according to the stated deadline. College instructors expect students to spend time outside of class reading, writing, and studying course material. Specifically, for every hour you are in class you need to study for two-to-three hours. This means working on this class material for approximately one hundred hours outside of class. This is college!

The breakdown of the requirements is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>See syllabus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Journaling</td>
<td>See syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Participation (5%)/Quizzes (5%)/Attendance (10%)</td>
<td>See syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>See syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>See syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>See syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Outliers Reflection Paper</td>
<td>See syllabus</td>
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Semester grades will be earned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% and above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.9% and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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**JOURNALING (25% of semester grade):**

The biggest single percentage of points for this course comes from completing regular journal assignments. These journal assignments are designed to help you reflect on the course material, your experiences outside of class and college, and stimulate new insights on becoming a more successful learner overall. The highest points will be received by students who demonstrate thought in writing their journals, write at least 250 words (maximum 500 words) on the assigned topic, and take care in communicating their thoughts through use of proper spelling, grammar, and complete sentences. Please type your journal (see section on “guidelines for written work.”) When your journal is returned to you, please put it in your binder. **You will be graded on:** introduction, understanding of topic, reflection, application, and grammar.

Further instruction on the value of journaling and feedback on these activities will be given throughout the course.

**ATTENDANCE (10% of semester grade)**

Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend every class, to arrive on time, and to remain the entire period. Likewise, you will frequently participate in in-class activities. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed in the case of an absence. In college there is no such thing as an “excused absence.” Students who are asked to leave the classroom for whatever reason by the instructor, who leave early/arrive late (more than 15 minutes), or who refuse to participate (such as failing to respond when asked a question or do not contribute to Success Team or Expert Group discussions) will be marked as absent.

Attendance grades are:

- 0 absences - 100%
- 1-2 absences - 90%
- 3-4 absences - 80%
STUDENTS WHO HAVE EIGHT OR MORE ABSENCES WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE AN “F” FOR THE SEMESTER.

PARTICIPATION (5% OF SEMESTER GRADE)
During the semester, I will be handing out several assignments to work on both inside and outside of class that will count toward your participation grade. To find out which assignments count toward your participation grade, look at the graded work schedule.

QUIZZES (5% of semester grade)
At the beginning of some classes, students may have a brief quiz over the material from the last class or readings from the book. There will be no make-up quizzes - no exceptions. If you are late to class, the instructor will decide whether you will be allowed to take the quiz. You may not use notes or material for the quizzes. If you do, you will receive a “0.” I may/will drop us to two quizzes.

PROJECTS (25% of semester grade)
You will complete two projects this semester: annotated bibliography (15%) and the Outliers reflection paper (10%). These are listed on the course calendar and more details for each project will be given in class at the appropriate time.

EXAMS (30%)
Students will complete two exams this semester - a midterm and a final exam. More details will be given in class, including how to prepare to “ace” these exams. EXAMS MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR SUBMITTED LATE.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN WORK:
In-class assignments and other written assignments must be completed in blue or black ink - any other work will not be graded. In-class work must also follow normal guidelines of Standard English - this includes complete sentences. Of course, you are not expected to create polished in-class work. Use MLA guidelines.

Out-of-class assignments must be typed with Times New Roman size 12 as the font, with one-inch margins on all four sides, and double-spaced. Please note that correct spelling, grammar, and a clear, easy-to-read format all count toward your grade. Use professional/formal/college English (this means NOT using text-message language, contractions, clichés, or slang, for example).

After graded work is handed back, you should wait 24 hours before asking any questions about the grade. During this time, you should review the feedback and any relevant notes. Grades will only be changed if mistakes were made by the instructor. You should have prepared clear and specific questions before inquiring about why a certain grade was assigned to your work.

LATE WORK POLICY:
Since a core focus of this course is to prepare you for experiences in higher education and/or your future in the workplace, completing work on time is considered highly desirable and an important asset to develop. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Assignments turned in LATE will NOT be graded and WILL BE given a ZERO. This policy is subject to change only with EXTREME extenuating circumstances.
ACADEMIC HONESTY:
Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at http://www.brazosport.edu. Click on the CATALOGS AND SCHEDULES link under STUDENTS.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may/will, at a minimum, result in an "F" this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL WORK INDEPENDENTLY UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED. PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, OR ANY RELATED OFFENSIVES WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC ZERO FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT - NO EXCEPTIONS; NO EXCUSES WILL BE TOLERATED!

See pages 12-16 in your Student Guide and Calendar for more specific information.

WITHDRAWALS:
If you need to drop the course for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor officially (i.e., in writing) in a timely manner. It is your responsibility to drop the class. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT DROP STUDENTS FOR ANY REASON. All students who remain in the course will receive a grade based on their performance.
The last day to withdraw is October 30, 2015.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software. Please contact: Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, (979) 230-3236 for further information. Students must notify the instructor of any accommodations during the first week of class.

EMAIL BASICS:
Communicating with others via email is an important skill to succeed in today's world. It is critical to know the audience when communicating in this medium. When you communicate with your instructor or your peers, you should be mindful of how your message may be interpreted. Please consider the following guide when communicating with instructors:

1. Appropriate salutation (e.g., Dear Mrs. Babbington,).
2. Brief introduction of yourself (especially important early on in the semester) so the instructor knows who you are.
3. Subject heading that includes the class identifier.
4. Subject heading that indicates the general nature of your communication (e.g., Question about Career Project).
5. Polite closing (e.g., Thanks, Best Wishes, Sincerely, Cheers, etc.).
6. Write a short message that is to the point.
7. PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD.
8. Avoid slang, text-message language, and acronyms (e.g., LOL).
9. Avoid sending an email when you are angry or upset.

College policy requires me to communicate with you using your Brazosport College email only.
Please check your MyBc email often.

TIPS FOR BEING SUCCESSFUL:
This is not designed to be a difficult course. If you attend every class, take good notes, complete assignments, and study outside of class, you should have no problem earning a good grade in this course. The instructor is available to students for any questions or concerns about the subject material.

DISCLAIMER:
THE COURSE INSTRUCTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO ANY PART OF THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, POLICIES, DEADLINES, CONTENT, ETC. You are responsible for keeping track of any and all changes. The instructors assign grades solely based on performance, not effort or anything else. If you anticipate any difficulty meeting course requirements or deadlines, you should contact the instructors well in advance. If an emergency should happen (e.g., hospitalization), formal documentation is required, and the instructor will be more than happy to help the student to complete the course successfully.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION:
All federal and state copyrights reserved for all original material presented in this course through any medium, including lecture or print. Unless otherwise noted, all course materials are the intellectual property of the instructors and are thus copyrighted. Individuals are prohibited from being paid for taking, selling, or otherwise transferring for value, personal class or other information notes made during this course to any entity without the express written permission of the instructors. In addition to legal sanctions, students found in violation of these prohibitions may be subject to disciplinary action from the college administration.

FINAL WORDS:
I am delighted you have chosen to enroll in Frameworks for Mathematics and Collegiate Learning. I commend you for placing such importance on doing well in college and developing skills that will not only potentially help you improve your grades and standing in college, but ensure you become a lifelong learner.
RESPECTFUL CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

We all benefit when:

- Everyone feels comfortable and free to share their thoughts in a safe and supportive environment. Please consider this before challenging, questioning, or contradicting the input of other students.
- All students understand they are being listened to in their own time, in their own way. This includes students who make speak slower or take a longer time to articulate their thoughts than you. Please do not interrupt a student who is still speaking; wait until they have finished before making your contribution to the discussion.
- We actively listen to other's opinions and insights. “Active listening” means contributions made to discussions are thoughtful, supported by examples (to make the meaning clearer) or evidence (e.g., sharing the original source).
- We are willing to take risks in sharing opinions that might be different to those ascribed to by the majority. Diversity of thought is as much a classroom asset as all other, more established, forms of diversity!
- You do not just accept something the instructor says - that you do not understand or agree with - without comment. No instructor minds being intellectually challenged, as long as it is done respectfully.
- Someone asks a question...because the chances are, someone else in the class wanted the answer but were too shy or nervous to ask. So you are doing someone else, not just yourself, a favor.
- We choose to engage fully in class discussions. Let us make them as lively and rich as possible; that is your responsibility as well as the instructor's.

Additional points to consider on making contributions:

- If you only thought of something after we had concluded class, take the opportunity to raise the issue in an online thread (Blackboard or equivalent).
- Remain open-minded! It is a myth that smart people stick to their original views. In fact, the smartest people are those who are willing to be swayed by reasoned argument and revise their views and opinions accordingly.
- Do take the opportunity to further class discussions in your Success Teams and/or study groups. You more you actively "work with" the material we cover, the more embedded in long-term memory it will be.
- Remember, the richness of this course experience - for you and for your peers - depends on you playing an active role in contributing to discussions. Speak up!