

**BLINN COLLEGE---BRYAN CAMPUS**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**  
**BLIN 0101 – First Year Seminar**  
**FALL 2009**

**Instructor's name:** Essie Childers  
**Office number:** L217  
**Office telephone:** 979-209-7360  
**E-mail:** essie.childers@blinn.edu  
**Office hours:** MW (12-1:15pm)  
TR (11-11:50am; 2-4pm)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to assist the student in making adequate personal and social adjustments to college life, recognizing and developing aptitudes, interests, and abilities, selecting life goals, becoming acquainted with student services, college curricula, and vocational opportunities.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Student successfully completing this course will be able to:

1. Examine differences between college and high school demands.
2. Define strategies for the demands of college and becoming a more effective student.
3. Recognize the impact of motivation on student learning.
4. Apply strategies to improve self motivation and personal development.
5. Use appropriate college and community resources that support academic success.
6. Practice using instructional technology such as clickers in the classroom, course management systems and Internet resources.
7. Examine strategies to maintain wellness.
8. Develop interpersonal skills to better relate to fellow students, staff, and instructors.
9. Investigate career opportunities including certificate and degree programs.
10. Discuss institutional history and policy and procedures of the College.
11. Utilize money management strategies and techniques to accomplish personal and academic goals.
12. Develop critical thinking skills.

**Required Textbook/Materials**

- Gardner, J.N, A.J. Jewler, & B.O. Barefoot. *Your College Experience: Strategies for Success*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.
- Student Planner, Notebook, 3 X 5 ruled index cards (1 pack)
- *Bulletin* of Blinn College and Student Handbook (Will be given to student in class)
- Flash Drive/Thumb Drives

Students should bring their textbook, planner and *Blinn College Bulletin* to each class.

### **Tentative Semester Calendar**

The tentative semester schedule can be found attached to this course information handout. If changes have to be made, they will be announced in class.

### **Course Requirements**

The work in this course includes regular attendance, quizzes, class assignments and participation in both classroom discussions/activities, and eCampus discussion board postings. Students are expected to complete all classroom assignments and homework on time. Late homework is penalized. Please see the late policy for more information.

**Quizzes** – There are 6 weekly quizzes. Quizzes will include multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and short answer questions. Quizzes will cover content discussed in class and in the textbook.

**Class Assignments** – Students will be required to complete in and out-of-class assignments as they are assigned.

**eCampus Discussion Postings** – Students will create brief (50-100 words) responses to questions posted on eCampus, reflecting on new information and knowledge gained in class. These responses will count as part of the student's participation grade.

**Pre-test/Post-test** – The pre-test will be given at the beginning of the semester, and a post-test is given on the last class day. The post-test grade will be 50% of the final exam grade.

**Life Skills Presentation** – A 3-5 minute presentation on a life skill that you have acquired. The presentation will be 50% of your final exam grade.

**E-mail** – All Blinn students are provided with a college e-mail account. It is your responsibility to activate your account and check your messages frequently, or have the Blinn e-mail set to an auto-forward for an e-mail account that is checked regularly. Unless you do so, you will miss notification of your absences and warning of a campus emergency.

### **Grading Criteria**

Your final grade in this course is based on the total of the following:

Quizzes – 30%  
Class Assignments (in/out of class) – 30%  
Participation –20%  
Comprehensive Final Exam –20%

#### **Blinn College Grading Scale**

A = 90 – 100      B= 80 – 89      C= 70 - 79  
D = 60 – 69      F= Below 60

## BLINN COLLEGE POLICIES

**Attendance Policy:** The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students place themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster, through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail (every student now has a Blinn College email address to which these notices will be sent) by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. If the student accumulates a total of two weeks' worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class. **Religious Holy Days:** In accordance with House Bill 256, passed by the 78<sup>th</sup> legislature in 2003, Blinn College shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this section of Texas Education Code Section 51.911 (b) may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. The effective date of this policy was September 1, 2003. Documentation is required.

**Excused Absences:** The only excused absences are those relating to an activity sponsored by Blinn College, observance of religious holy days, and military service. Absences for religious reasons must be revealed before the planned absence with documentation. Please refer to page 70 in your Blinn College Catalog for further explanation of excused absences. For students receiving Title IV Financial Aid, attendance in class is mandatory. Students who are found not attending may have the aid removed.

**Disability accommodations:** Students with documented disabilities may seek support from Blinn College's Office of Disability Services (209-7251). Accommodations are not retroactive. Students are encouraged to contact this office as early as possible to initiate services. The student must then discuss requested accommodations with the instructor, and agreement must be reached between student and instructor.

**Scholastic Integrity Policy:** Blinn instructors are responsible for maintaining scholastic integrity by refusing to tolerate any form of scholastic dishonesty. According to the *Blinn College Student Handbook*, violations of the Scholastic Integrity Policy "shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion." This handbook defines "plagiarism" as "the

appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work." Blinn College stipulates that "collusion" is the "unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements." Violations of the scholastic integrity policy may result in a "penalty ranging from a grade of zero on the assignment/examination up to and including the imposition on a F for the entire course."

**Civility in the classroom:** Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff, and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

**Personal Electronic Devices:** All the functions of all **personal electronic devices** designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) **must be turned off and kept out of sight** in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy (Administrative Policy). Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating will have consequences in accordance with the Blinn College policy section regarding academic dishonesty. Students exempted from this policy include active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only. Any student violating this policy shall be subject to discipline, including suspension, in accordance with *Student Handbook*.

**W/WF/WP Grades:** Students who drop, or withdraw from, a course prior to the official drop deadline receive a grade of W. If they drop after this deadline, they automatically receive a grade of WF. If their work is passing on the day they drop, the instructor may change this WF to a WP by submitting a grade change form to the Division Chair.

**Incomplete policy:** A grade of "I" may be given only in emergencies, such as the serious illness of the student or a close family member. This grade is not for students who fall behind in their work. To receive a grade of incomplete the student must have satisfactorily completed all but one or two of the final requirements of the course. The instructor and student must agree on this grade before it can be assigned, then a course completion contract must be signed by student,

instructor and division chair. All work must be made up within 90 days of signing the course completion contract, or zeroes will be assigned for the uncompleted work.

**Student e-mail accounts:** Every Blinn College student is assigned an email account to facilitate official College correspondence. Students must activate their accounts initially through the Student E-mail Accounts link at the Blinn home page. Students need to check their Blinn accounts regularly for important communications, including excessive absence reports.

### **HUMANITIES DIVISION POLICIES**

**Mid-term grades:** Although not required by Blinn College, this Division requires that all instructors inform their students in writing of their standing at mid-term of each semester, including summer semesters. Accordingly, you will be notified at mid-term of your grades, and if appropriate, advised how to improve your performance.

**20 % Rule:** Students who miss over 20 percent of the coursework due to absences, excused or unexcused, will not be allowed to make up the work. They miss out on too much of the material/skills taught to successfully make up missed work. Even though students may keep up on the assigned reading, there is no way to make up missed lectures, class discussions, group work, etc., all very important and necessary methods of learning the skills required for this course.

**Papers:** Formal papers are to be submitted on time in two ways: in hard copy and electronically. Papers not submitted in class will be considered late, and the paper grade will be docked ten points per day, including weekends. To submit papers electronically, send them to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) PRIOR TO the start of class on the day each paper is due. Major essays are not considered turned in until they are submitted to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) before class AND submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the due date.

**The Writing Center:** The Writing Center is located in A-119 offers tutoring in writing for all students enrolled in Humanities Division classes. The mission of the Writing Center is to make better writers. This is accomplished in a comfortable environment through one-on-one consultations with experienced writing tutors. Tutors help students identify and address writing concerns. Student writers themselves direct each session as tutors guide them through any stage of the writing process, from understanding an assignment to documentation of sources. To set up an appointment, call (979) 209-7591 or visit [www.blinn.edu/brazos/humanities/writingcenter](http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/humanities/writingcenter).

No food or drink allowed in Blinn College classrooms or laboratories.

## MRS. CHILDERS' COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes. I will take attendance from the first day of class until the final exam. A student who acquires more than the equivalent of two weeks of absences (excused or unexcused) in a developmental course(s) will be administratively withdrawn from the class. There is recourse to appeal this drop. The student may request a form from the Division Chairman, Dr. Nancy Wright in A264.

4 absences in a MW or TR class

6 absences in a MWF class

- **Tardies:** Three tardies equal one absence. A student is tardy if he/she enters class after roll has been checked. Tardy students are responsible for checking with the instructor (after class) to assure the attendance is noted and to discuss the reason for the tardy entrance. You will be counted tardy if you arrive ten minutes late.
- **Late Enrollees:** Students who enter the course after the “beginning date” of the course are subject to the same guidelines and due dates stated in the Course Syllabi and on the Course Schedule.
- **Emergencies:** Most emergencies can be verified by documentation (doctor’s note, hospital receipt, accident report, etc.). Students have twenty-four hours to inform me by email or phone message of an emergency to qualify for discussion of possible make up. Documentation is also required and must be submitted the first class meeting after an emergency or before. Regular checkup appointments are NOT emergencies and will be counted as unexcused absences. Any appointment that can be scheduled and is scheduled during class time will be considered **unexcused**. (The instructor reserves the right not to accept an excuse.)
- **Late Work Policy:** As a general rule, all work should be submitted in a timely and responsible manner. If you anticipate an absence, it is your responsibility to turn in work early or to make arrangements with your instructor. Part of the college experience is being held accountable to your responsibilities inside and outside of the classroom. This class will be no different, and no exceptions will be made. When you have an *unexcused* absence, assignments will be accepted for 70%\* of the original grade at the next class meeting. After this, you will receive a grade of “0” for the missing work. \*Please note that 70% of the original grade is only a grade of 70% if you would have earned full points for the assignment. (i.e. An assignment that would have earned 80% would earn a 56% when turned in late.)

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- **Extra Credit:** Students will be given opportunities for extra credit during the semester by keeping a neatly organized notebook. This notebook will be checked during the eighth week.

Notebooks must be organized outside of class and have all tabs appropriately labeled (See Course Schedule for more information). Students will receive up to 20 bonus points for the notebook.

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Students are expected to attend class for the entire period, to be attentive, to participate in class activities, and to be respectful of others. Habitual violations (3) of these policies will be considered a violation of Blinn's civility policy and will be dealt with accordingly. Please review Blinn's Civility Policy stated above. Offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Leaving class without an instructor's formal dismissal. Students should be prepared to stay in class during its entirety unless an emergency occurs. Attend to restroom needs before or after class. Remember you are in a college environment.
- Using cell phones, ear phones, or other electronic devices without permission. Students are to avoid texting in class, checking messages or receiving phone calls.
- Talking while the instructor is talking, sleeping, doing homework for other classes or other students. Comments in class must be professional and academic. Profanity is not permitted.
- Coming to class inappropriately dressed. Undergarments must be covered by outer garments at all times.
- Bringing children, visitors, or pets to class without permission.
- Having combs, picks, or other objects projecting from the hair to distract from the teaching process.
- Wearing sunglasses in class.

## CONTRACT FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Please **e-mail** the statement below “Contract for Academic Success” to Mrs. Childers from your Blinn e-mail account after reading your syllabus. Be sure to type the information shown below in the subject area. This is due September 7, 2009 before midnight to receive the full points.

<b>Subject: Your First and Last Name, BLIN0101 MW</b>
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### Contract for Academic Success

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am enrolled in Blin0101, Fall 2009 Semester. “I” understand that “I” create the grade. “I” am responsible for exhibiting successful behaviors in class and showing respect to others. “I” understand that in order to achieve success, “I” must be in attendance, participate in class, study and make wise choices. “I” also understand that if “I” am having any questions or concerns, “I” must contact the instructor immediately to seek help.

essie.childers@blinn.edu

**TENTATIVE DAILY CALENDAR\***  
**Fall 2009**

Mrs. E. Childers, Instructor

979-209-7360

essie.childers@blinn.edu

*Text: Your College Experience: Strategies for Success*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class/Lecture</i>	<i>Reading and Homework</i>
<b>Aug. 31</b> <b>Day 1</b>	<b>Introduction to Blinn College and Resources</b> > <i>Who are you? Human Bingo</i> > <i>Class Introduction &amp; Overview</i> > <i>Pre-test</i>  <i>Activate your Blinn Email Address</i>	Ch. 1 <i>Exploring your Purpose in College</i>
<b>Sept. 2</b>	> <i>Power Point-Mrs. C.</i> > <i>Campus Tour/Scavenger Hunt</i> > <i>Blinn College ID's</i>	<i>Print Test Scores and Schedule</i>
<b>Sept. 7</b>	<b>Campus Technologies</b> > <i>Discuss previous chapter</i> > <i>Blinn Website</i>  <b>Due: e-mailed academic contract</b>	Ch. 2 <i>Managing Your Time</i>
<b>Sept. 9</b>	> <i>Blinn Bulletin/Student Handbook</i> > <i>eCampus</i> > <i>BORIS</i> <u>Quiz on Introduction to Blinn College/Resources</u> <u>Ch. 1</u>	<i>Time Log Assignment Part #1</i>
<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>Time Management and Money Management</b> > <i>Planners/Schedules</i> > <i>Budgets</i>  <b>Due: BORIS assignment</b> <del>over Week #1 including chapter #1.</del>	Ch. 4 <i>Majors and Careers: Making the Right Choice</i>
<b>Sept. 16</b>	> <i>Financial Aid</i> Quiz on Campus Technologies	<i>Time Log Assignment</i>
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Career Counseling/Advising</b> > <i>Selecting a Major and Career</i> > <i>Working while in College</i>  <b>Due: Time Log Assignment</b>	Ch. 3 <i>Discovering How You Learn: A Primer for Lifelong Learning</i>

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Date	Class/Lecture	Reading and Homework
Sept. 23	<p>—Spring 2010 Advising</p> <p>➤</p> <p><u>Quiz on Time Management/Money Management Ch.2</u></p>	<p>Ch. 5 Engagement in Learning</p>
Sept. 28	<p><b>Learning Styles/Student Engagement</b></p> <p>➤ VARK</p> <p>➤ “Engagement”</p> <p><b>Due: Reality Check</b></p> <p>(Topic approval for presentation Pull for presentation day)</p>	<p>Ch. 7 Listening, Note-Taking, and Participating</p> <p>Ch. 8 Reading and Remembering</p> <p>Go to eCampus-Print Grade Sheet (See Syllabus)</p>
Sept. 30	<p>➤ College Instructors</p> <p><u>Quiz on Career Counseling/Advising and Ch. 4</u></p> <p>Bring Grade Sheet -How am I doing?</p>	<p>Ch. 9 Doing Your Best on Exams and Tests</p> <p>Faculty Interview Assignment</p>
Oct. 5	<p><b>Introduction to Study Skills</b></p> <p>➤ Listening and Note Taking</p> <p>➤ Reading Skills</p> <p><b>Due: Faculty Interview Assignment</b></p>	<p>Ch. 11 Diversity: Appreciating Differences Among Us</p>
Oct. 7	<p>➤ Test Taking</p> <p><u>Quiz on Learning Styles/Student Engagement Ch. 3 and 5</u></p> <p><u>Quiz over Week #3</u></p>	<p>Ch. 12 Staying Healthy in College and in Life</p>
Oct. 12	<p><b>Diversity/Healthy Living (Dress Nice-Guest Speaker)</b></p> <p>➤ Cultures and Diversity</p> <p>➤ Discrimination and Prejudices</p> <p>➤ Stress</p> <p><b>Due: The Letter Assignment</b></p> <p><u>Quiz over Week #4</u></p>	<p>Review Chapters 1-5, 7-9, and 11-12.</p>

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Class/Lecture</i>	<i>Reading and Homework</i>
Oct. 14	<p><b>(Dress Nice-Guest Speaker)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Nutrition</li> <li>➤ Drugs and Alcohol</li> </ul> <p><u>Quiz on Introduction to Study Skills and Ch. 7, 8 and 9</u> <del>Quiz over Week #5</del></p>	Review Chapters 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-12.
Oct. 19 and Oct. 21	<p><b><u>Recap of the Semester and Evaluations</u></b> <b><u>Preparation for Spring 2010 Semester</u></b> <b><u>Final Presentations</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>Final Exam</u></b></p> 	<p>The Final Exam will be available in the Learning Center from Sunday, October 18 – Tuesday, October 20. Learning Center Hours can be found at: <a href="http://www.blinn.edu/labs/bryan/index.htm">http://www.blinn.edu/labs/bryan/index.htm</a></p> <p>Plan to take the final at the above time as no early or late finals will be given.</p>	

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\*This is a **tentative** schedule. Students will be notified of any changes. However, if you are absent when changes are announced, you are still accountable. Mrs. C.

## **BLIN 0101 Grade Sheet**

### **Class Assignments (30%)**

Assignment Title	Maximum Point Value	Student's Grade
Email Academic Contract (see Syllabus)	25 points	
BORIS	25 points	
Time Log	100 points	
Reality Check	25 points	
Faculty Interview	100 points	
The Letter	25 points	
<i>Total</i>		
<i>Take total and divide by 10</i>		

### **Quizzes and Vocabulary Test (30%)**

Title	Maximum Point Value	Student's Grade
Quiz #1	50 points	
Quiz #2	50 points	
Quiz #3	50 points	
Quiz #4	50 points	
Quiz #5	50 points	
Quiz #6	50 points	
<i>Total</i>		
<i>Take total and divide by 10</i>		

### **Comprehensive Final (20%)**

Title	Maximum Point Value	Student's Grade
Final Exam	100 points	
Life Skills Presentation	100 points	
<i>Total</i>		
<i>Take total and divide by 10</i>		

### **Class Participation (20%)**

Title	Maximum Grade	Student's Grade
In Class Participation	100 points	
eCampus Discussion Participation	100 points	
<i>Total</i>		
<i>Take total and divide by 10</i>		

Your grade is the total of all yellow highlighted cells: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Blinn College Grading Scale**

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79  
D = 60 – 69  
F = Below 60

