Department of Economics
Prof. Rafael Dacal

Written Assignments
For ECO-3041
The quotes below express my opinion about how writing should be done for this particular paper:

“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.” Thomas Jefferson

“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.” Leonardo da Vinci

“Anybody can have ideas—the difficulty is to express them without squandering (a lot of) paper on an idea that ought to be reduced to one glittering paragraph. I never write "metropolis" for seven cents when I can write "city" and get paid the same. As to the adjective, when in doubt, strike it out.” Mark Twain

“If you can’t explain something simply, you don’t understand it well. Most of the fundamental ideas of science are essentially simple, and may, as a rule, be expressed in a language comprehensible to everyone. Everything should be as simple as it can be, yet no simpler.” Albert Einstein

Books:

The student is to read from either of Dan Ariely’s books (there is no preference). The options (books) are:

- “The Upside of Irrationality” (ISBN #978-0-06-199503-3), or
- “Predictability Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decision” (ISBN #978-0-06-135323-9)

Due dates and weights:

| Phase I (10%) | February 10th, 2014 | Physical possession of the book |
| Phase II (15%) | March 17th, 2014 | Summit a draft outline |
| Phase III (75%) | April 14th, 2014 | Summit a final written assignment |
Assignment Question

When writing this paper, your job is to answer the question below:

   From a behavioral economics perspective, what is irrational behavior and provide some everyday examples?

Requirements for this assignment are:

1) Read and comprehend the book you selected.

2) Write the assignment following the instructions listed below:
   a) Use Times New Roman font.
   b) Use “12” font size.
   c) Use single space.
   d) Use a Paragraph spacing of “Before: 12 pt”.
   e) Provide an introduction paragraph.
   f) Provide at least three supporting paragraphs, of which the student must
      i) Write at least two supporting paragraph providing author's example (use references).
      ii) Write one example were you have acted “irrational.”
   g) Provide a conclusion.
   h) Use proper grammar and spelling.
   i) Have at least one page, but no more than two pages.
   j) Submit assignment on time using MS Word.
   k) Provide a bibliography or reference page.

Rules on Plagiarism

Please, do not try to committee plagiarism! Plagiarism is cheating, and cheating is against school and course policies. If I think you have copied your work from a different source, you will be asked to submit your document to http://www.plagiarismdetect.com/, at your own cost (FYI the cost for a 14 day trial is $14.99). You will then resubmit the graded
report to me for an assessment of plagiarism. If plagiarism has taken place, you will get a zero for this assignment.

I define plagiarism as using one sentence or phrases without using references. I think one sentence or phrase could be an oversight, and therefore forgiven. However if you have two copied sentences or phrases, you are plagiarizing. The best thing is to read the book, and then not to use the book or internet when writing this paper. When you have finished, then look for the reference pages. This paper is a simple essay that should take no more than two hours to write and two or three to edit.
Acknowledgement of Assignment

I ______________________ (Panther ID ____________________) read and understood the instructions provided in the assignment. If I have any questions, I will ask the professor. I understand that if the assignment phases are not summated accurately and on time I will not receive points.

Grades

Phase I Grade: ____________
Phase II Grade: ____________
Phase III Grade: ____________
Phase II Handout: Outline

Please use this handout to complete the outline for this report. Use the space in between sections to complete your assignment.

I. Introduction (answer the question I posted for this assignment).


II. Topic of supporting paragraph I (provide topic below and page were the example appears).

III. Topic of supporting paragraph II (provide topic below and page were the example appears).

IV. Topic of supporting paragraph III – personal example (provide topic below).

V. Conclusion (provide a one or two sentence conclusion for the outline)