



List of Advice for Students taking Calculus 1A:

To Succeed in the Class, you should..

- Study a few times a day in short blocks rather than one big block to avoid losing your concentration
- Make study guides/cards: Rewriting rules on a separate sheet of paper lets you study without having to flip pages every few minutes looking for the next theorem
- Put practice problems in your study guide. Theorems and definitions lose their meaning to you if you do not know how to apply them
- Practice and dedicate a little bit more time to reviewing the night before the test.
Cramping really does help after all
- Make flashcards for theorems and definitions in different colors. Color helps!
- Take notes using different colors
- Try making a study schedule to manage your time better
- Make friends in the class so that you can ask them how they solve a certain problem, maybe they will give you a different way to look at it and ultimately help you understand math
- Listen to what Mr Lo has to say. Write it down. I used to look at the kid next to me who fell asleep on his chair, but realized it really is not the cool thing to do anyway. Write things down, it reinforces memory.
- Have a positive attitude and participate, smile. It helps you remember and have great memories of the class and math when you review
- Make up funny ways to remember tedious grueling definitions that do not make sense (after they do make sense to you, of course)
- Mr Lo has a great system where you can ask homework questions, so take advantage of it and put them up (not being able to make it to his office hours because you have another class should not be an obstacle to asking questions)
- Come early yourself to start early and get more time on the exams
- Keep your diary updated. You do not want to lose points on such a silly assignment.

- Study for every single group quiz like it is an individual quiz. You never know who will not show up, so do not rely on others. The questions might show up on midterms and individual quizzes, so come prepared
- Go online. Do some math research. Animations help like no other! Online graphs and interactive icons and games help, and are a miracle due to the small time commitment.

Avoid:

- Rewriting theorems in your own words. In math, even though it may help to think of something in your own words, it is better to ask the teacher or refer to the textbook to understand what the theorem or definition is saying, rather than try to simplify it by rephrasing it without understanding the real point behind it
- Putting math on the bottom of your list. I took very hard classes along with Math 1A, a few honors classes and a physics engineering calc-based class. I aced the other classes by studying hard, and failed this elementary calc class which seemed too easy anyway. Don't do what I did, your transcript cares about your grade, not how hard or easy you thought the course was.
- Avoid getting distracted and thinking about your problems or life in general. Drop your issues on the mat outside the classroom.
- Do not sit close to the door. The period after your class gets anxious because they come early to be allowed to take the quiz or test early, as is allowed, and get very noisy. Do not sit close to the door.
- Avoid listening to music that you want to sing along with while doing math because you will not finish your homework on time
- Do not stay up all night. If your class starts before your brain wakes up, you miss all the notes. Then, you die on the homework at home.
- Do not listen to anyone who says you cannot take this class because it's too hard. YES you can. If you have some dedication and some time, you will do well.
- Do not come hungry. Eat breakfast. Your brain needs the glucose



Keys for Success

In addition to the assigned homework, do the rest of the problems in the assigned sections and the review section in order to get a full picture of the concept(s) at hand.

Once you're done with ALL the homework problems in a section, look for patterns in the methods you use to solve similar problems, and categorize the problems based on the respective method you've used in the past.

Once you're done with ALL the homework problems in a section, don't forget to continually review those problems along the course of the chapter. It isn't enough that you do a problem and leave it at that. You gain a better understanding of the concept only by reviewing the mechanics behind that problem repeatedly.

Review the group quizzes for the respective chapter, because the group quizzes prepare you well for the exam.

If time permits, hold regular study sessions with your group outside of class and go over questions that anyone might have problems with. Students who teach others to do a problem get a better understanding of that problem and the concept associated with that problem. Definitely make use of De Anza's facilities and Mr. Lo's office hours.

Make flashcards of all the theorems and definitions in the chapter you are currently studying, and go through them in the morning and at night. That way, the curriculum will stay fresh in your mind, and you won't have to worry about memorizing them at the last minute. Moreover, it helps to actually understand the theorems/definitions.

Don't forget to review the preliminary sections of each chapter as adequately as you would with the harder, more recent sections. When the midterm comes up, it is important that you have a strong understanding of ALL of the sections of the chapter, so devote equal time to each section in your midterm preparation.

Mistakes I Made

I focused extensively on the harder sections of a chapter (Ex. Graphing a derivative), but I forgot to allocate equal time to the preliminary sections of the chapter. I didn't realize that each section of the chapter had equal value, hence I didn't have a "fresh" understanding of the .1 and .2 sections as I did of the recent sections (.7, .8, etc).

When I do my homework, I always keep my graphing calculator by my side, and especially when I have trouble with problems which involve graphing or solving equations, I use my calculator. However, I realize that my overdependence on my calculator leads me astray from understanding how to do the problems methodically.

Although I prepare for midterms days before they are actually held, I tend to cram for the midterm on the morning before the midterm is held. As a result, my mind gets tensioned by all the theorems, definitions, and concepts I have to understand, and I feel less confident about the midterm.

Once I'd receive my graded midterm back, I would take a general look at it, and pack it away. But I wouldn't properly scrutinize the midterm for my mistakes or any patterns of time mismanagement. Had I done so, I would have been able to pinpoint my silly mistakes and learn how to allocate time to each problem when I'm given only an hour. More importantly, I didn't realize that scrutinizing these midterms ahead of time would very adequately prepare me for the final, which would be even harder than the midterms themselves.

Sunday, 30 November 2008

Part A: Things should do to succeed in the class and things that students might not realize

- Attend to the class everyday
- Listen carefully when the teacher explains in class
- Directly understand the materials everyday in class. Don't wait until the day before the tests then you study them because it won't work to succeed in class.
- Ask question and don't hesitate to ask whenever you find difficulties
- Doing a lot of exercise everyday because practice makes perfect. You don't have to spend too much time (at least 30 minutes everyday).
- It is good to have a passionate in math so it is easier for you to study and understand the materials
- Don't come to office hour or tutorial center only to get the answer for the problem but also understand the problems themselves and analyze them.
- Study the theorems and apply them when you do the homework.
- Be confidence when you do the tests or midterms. Don't be panic.
- Manage the time you spent to solve the questions in the tests.
- Read carefully the question and underline the specific question or hints that are given.
- Again, understand the concept very well so you won't be confused to see the variation of the problems.
- Try to get use to do the practice homework very fast and correct. (It helps you during the exams).
- Math requires hard work. Even genius students can fail the class if they are lazy.

Part B : The mistakes I did

- I couldn't manage my time very well in studying. Sometimes I spent too much time and sometimes I spent only short time to study and do the homework.
- I postponed doing the homework that I should do before the teacher explain the next section.
- I used to give up easily when I found hard problems and this didn't help me to prepare for the tests.
- I did less practice in the day before the tests because I always have the others midterms on the same day as math. Therefore, I should study and do a lot of exercises every day.
- I lacked of confidence in every midterms and I easily got panic if I found hard problems or not enough time to finish the tests. As a result, I couldn't think carefully and be careless so I ended up lost lots of points.
- I had a difficulty in think and do problems fast. I spent a lot of time for a few problems and I always didn't finish the tests. I figure out that I didn't have a strong basic concept and I am very careless.

Should Do's

- Attend group tutoring with Lina or whoever is hosting the group to ask questions that you are having trouble with and review problems others are facing
- Receive individual tutoring at the tutorial center to get individual attention and to learn a few lessons ahead of the class in order to better comprehend what is being taught in class
- Voluntarily help someone else with a problem to ensure that you know how to do the problem yourself
- Review, review, review: during every section taught, not only review previous sections to recall material that may pop up in the current section but look over the next few sections to be better prepared
- Before every midterm, read every section thoroughly, do ALL the homework problems again and other similar problems, and do the entire chapter review to ensure mastery of the material
- Develop a love for calculus. That way you will be willing to spend several hours a day honing your passion.

Mistakes

- I procrastinated with doing the homework causing me to feel overwhelmed and rush through the homework later on causing me to not fully grasp the material at times
- By procrastinating and sometimes not fully grasping the material, I would spend a lot more time the night before the quiz learning material that was taught several days ago

1. Part one: Things that student should do to help themselves succeed in the class and things that they might not realize the importance of.

- First, attend regularly and be punctual
- Use your syllabus to help you keep up w/ assignments and test.
- Do the assignment on time (provide practice to acquire new skill, provide you w/ background information)
- Skim assigned chapters before reading them to preview content and to determine whether new terms are introduced, look up the terms and definitions to familiarize yourself w/ them before doing the reading.
- In class, become an active listener: listen with a positive frame of mind; assume that you'll learn something useful, increase your understanding.
- Take notes to help you concentrate on the lecture; you can adopt a note-taking system that works for you by using symbols.
- Spend time to review the notes you took during that class (on the same day that you wrote them)
- Highlighting or underline the most significant formulas, equations, definitions, theorem in the textbook and focus on the key points.
- Place your question mark next to confusing material. Read the examples that follow until they are clear to you. Then read the confusing material to try to answer your question.
- Use additional textbooks and study guides as resource materials to help you in the courses from school and library. (They're useful also while doing homework and prepare for tests)
- Make sure to do homework before the next class and on the same day it was assigned.
- Check and discuss with your friends to pool your knowledge. Ask them questions about class work and encourage them to ask you questions. If you have any questions based on class notes, write them down so that you may ask the teacher during the next class.

2. Part two: Mistakes that I (or people I know) made in class/study habits that you should avoid making.

- Doing homework not in the same day → forgot some parts of what I heard in class.
- Doing homework not effectively because I read the book without attention.
- I sometimes didn't read new chapter before going to class so I couldn't catch up with the whole lecture.
- People also don't like to face with hard problems, we read them and ask others immediately without thinking carefully. They find troubles with the test after that.
- Understanding the textbook is the most important because they're basic steps.
- Going to class regularly or you will find it hard to understand in the next class.
- Practice, practice and practice. Because I'm lack of practice, I feel not confident enough when the tests are coming >"<
- Studying w/ interest!!!

Mr. Lo
Math 1A
25 November 2008

Tips:

- The solution manual is very helpful. Check every problem right after you do it in the homework instead of waiting until the end. That way you can fix mistakes right after you make them and you'll only make the mistake once on the homework.
- Make note cards with the theorems on them, then put an example of how you use the theorem on the back.
- Do all of the problems from the group quiz and compare answers instead of splitting it up. Keep the quizzes and review them, not just the posted review problems before the midterm.
- Make sure you understand all of the formulas that you use, even if that means doing a problem the long way the first couple of times. That way when you get to the test, if you forget a formula, you can usually figure it out.
- If someone else asks for help, help them. A lot of times it makes you understand something better if you're forced to come up with a new way to explain it to someone else. It also helps you remember it better.

Mistakes:

- Don't wait until the end of the week to do the homework. If you do you'll end up having to read the book a lot more, you won't remember any tricks we learned in class that aren't in the book and you will forget it all. If you do a lot of sections at once, everything starts to look the same.
- Skipping homework problems that look easy it's a good idea. Many of them are slightly different once you actually start to do them and the ones with tiny differences end up on the tests, and little mistakes will cost you on the tests.
- When studying for the midterm, actually do some of the problems again, don't just look at them. The worst thing is looking a problem on the test, knowing you just saw it in your homework, and then not remembering how you got to the answer.

Math 1A
Extra Credit/ Lo B

Part 1:

In calculus 1 A, there are many definitions and basic knowledge in chapter one. I think that the best way to learn this chapter is to remember these definitions and do all the examples in the book. The examples in this book are very important. First, the examples can help us to organize different kinds of problems and know how to use definitions to solve problems. Also, from the examples, we can learn how to answer a question in clearly steps. If we do all the examples by ourselves and read the steps carefully, we can know how to solve problems quickly while we are having quizzes and exams.

In chapter two, if we want to be successful in chapter two, the only way is to do as much problems as we can and look back at all the derivative we have done. Then break them down into groups, according to which formula we used. Next, find the common that lead us to use the formula we used for the group. Last, remember the formulas which we use in different groups. There are a lot of formulas for us to remember. Sometimes, it is very easy to mix the formulas, especially the formula between derivative of trigonometric and the derivative of the inverse of trigonometric. The more questions we solve, the more formulas we remember. The hardest part for me of this chapter is how to graph f and f' and how to interpret. In the graphing problem, we should know the relationship between f and f' clearly. The examples in the book don't tell much of graphing, so we should listen carefully in the class. The notes from the class are very important. The useful way to know how to interpret is the sentence, which Mr. Lo give us. It is really helpful.

In chapter three, the first section is linear approximation and Newton's method. Because it is very easy to mix these two definitions, we should separate them to

understand. Section 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 are the previous knowledge to section 3.6 and 3.7. Although it is not hard to learn, it is not easy to get a high score in exams. Because the most important problem in this exam is not that the questions are hard but the limit time. The handouts are very helpful when we solve those problems. At the beginning of graphing, we can look at the handout and follow the steps, but after doing three or four questions, we should finish the question without looking at the handout and use the handout to correct the answer. I found an easy way to remember the steps is that the more complicate the function is, the more steps we need. Like, if the function has a discontinuous point, we should find all the relate thing with the discontinuous point.

Part 2:

1. The worst mistakes I make in this quarter is that I didn't study hard in the first two weeks. Because of the summer holidays, I can't focus on studying at the beginning. I did badly in the first midterm. Even though I study hard in the following days, it is hard to earn more points to get an A. So, after having a long holiday, we'd better to adjust studying Math in the first week.

2. While we are studying, we cannot say that it seems I know how to solve this problem, but we should say that I know exactly how to solve it. This is very important. I made this mistake this quarter. This mistake makes me lose 10 points in the third midterm. We should solve each problem clearly by our hands, not minds. Only if we understand why we use this formula or definition to solve this problem not others, we do well in studying in Math.

3. Asking questions in time is very important in Math 1A. It is too late to ask questions in three days after learning one section. I made this mistake in the third midterm. I found a question, which I didn't know how to do it before, but I didn't ask anyone to teach me. Also, I didn't know how to do it in the midterm. The best way to learn Math is that doing more questions and asking more questions.

Math 1A
7:30 class

Bonus Assignment: Succeed in Calculus 1A

If you want to succeed in Mr. Lo's class, a few things are very important. First of all, make sure you stay attentive for every second of the lectures; Do every practice problem along with him as he does it on the board. You often see questions extremely similar to these on the test and midterms. Secondly, ask any question you have as soon as you can. Mr. Lo is pretty good at explaining things, but he can't help you understand something if he doesn't know you don't understand it. If you don't get the question answered in class, make sure you go to office hours to get it cleared up, because **a small misunderstanding can lead to a huge amount of missed points on the midterms.** Thirdly, keep a close track of your diary. Even though it is only collected during each midterm and may not be worth as many points as the big tests, the value in keeping track of this goes beyond the points you get for it. It allows you to have sort of a general gauge of how you are doing in the class, and you can use it to see which quizzes you did poorly on and, consequently, which topics you need to review. Fourth, always grade your quizzes the day you get them. It is easy to forget to grade them if you wait for too long, and that is just points down the drain. Lastly, never miss a class meeting. Since Mr. Lo moves rather quickly in Calculus 1A, missing one class period (or daydreaming through it) can put you behind by an entire section. It is really, really difficult to catch up from this.

I made a few general mistakes in taking this course. Since this was a 7:30 course, I didn't pay attention during a few classes and fell behind. It was difficult for me to catch up after that, and this resulted in some poor test scores. Also, I nearly missed a few quiz deadlines because I put off grading them until the last day. However, the biggest mistake I made in this course was putting off doing the homework for one day; I found it much more difficult than I thought it would be to do read, absorb, and do the problems for two sections of homework the next day.

Suggestions for Future Students

Things That I Recommend Doing

- 1) Do the homework more than once. Do the homework once when assigned, then again before the quiz, and finally, before the midterm. Actually working out the problems again while studying for a quiz or midterm is more beneficial than just looking them over in your notebook. The process of doing really cements the process in your mind.
- 2) When studying for a quiz or midterm, mix up the homework. I list the homework for each section, then do one or two problems from a section, then one or two problems from another section, and continue this process until I've gone through all of the problems. Doing the homework section by section in order removes some of the thought process that goes into solving a problem and conditions you to only think about doing a problem one way.
- 3) Outline the processes or steps required to do a problem. Organizing such a process removes the confusion in solving problems.
- 4) Teach what you are learning to someone else. I have found it useful to "teach" what I am learning to my husband. If I can explain it to him, and he understands and follows what I am saying, and I can answer his questions, then I know I get it. Also, if for no other reason, explaining something out loud, at least for me, helps me understand the process better and makes it clear in my mind.

Mistakes

- 1) Falling behind on homework. I did this in the first few sections, thinking I could easily catch up, but it was extremely difficult.
- 2) Not attempting a difficult problem because you think that it will not be on the exam. Even if the specific problem is not on the exam, working through a more difficult problem helps to make simpler problems make sense.
- 3) Rely on other group members to do the group quiz for you. Showing up the morning of the quiz and saying "I didn't get it" when it is obvious that you did not even try, is a disservice to yourself and unfair to your group members. If you work through the problems and do not understand them, your group members will be more than willing to work with you and show you where you have made errors, if you have shown the effort.
- 4) Do not be afraid to tell your group members they are wrong. Everyone misses mistakes, and even if the group member is right, working out the problem together is extremely beneficial for everyone.
- 5) Not having a study partner. I occasionally worked with others in the class to solve problems, but I wish I would have done this consistently throughout the quarter. When working through problems with others, I picked up things that I had never thought about doing to solve a problem, and vice versa.

Advices for new students

Things you should do to help yourself succeed in the class

1. Take a note everything from the board and what teacher says.
(Teacher writes every important thing on board very clearly. Run-through of this note will help you later when you have a test.)
2. Ask proper, relevant questions to teacher in class.
(He will answer your question clearly, and you don't need to spend the time outside of class)
3. Don't try solve the problem alone in the class when teacher explains something.
(You will miss something very important. Prepare before class.)
4. Use group quiz well
(Possible question will be on the website and we can discuss before and in the class)
5. Come to class early
(You can get extra information from teacher or even from the chitchat with classmate.)
6. Mark everything that you don't understand in class.
(You will forget what you do not understand soon.)

Mistakes that I made / study habit

1. I did not ask questions in class.
(I had to go to his office after class, and I could not go to office because I had to work or had class at office hour.
2. I did try to solve problems on my own in the class.
(I missed a lot of things, and it took long time to figure out what teacher said.)
3. I skipped the problems which I thought I know how to solve.
(When I took a test, it took so long to solve those questions. Make sure that you can solve every questions perfectly)

4. Practice many kinds of problems many time.
(There is no enough time in test. You need to be aware of how to solve problems immediately.)
5. Make a category of problems.
(Some problems have a similar solution. Likewise, there is no time to figure out how to solve the problem in the test)
6. Practice how to use to calculator.
(If it is your first time to use a calculator, you need to practice it.)
7. Complete studying pre-calculus before taking this class or at the beginning of Quarter .
(Every things are based on pre calculus and you can not look up the pre-calculus book every time when you have a problem.)

Professor Lo

Math 1A

Extra Credit

Advice for Future Students

Part One:

1. Listening to the lecture is more important than just copying the notes down. Math requires a lot of understanding. The class notes are no use without understanding what they mean. Once you can understand the lecture and the method, you can do better in your math class. So if you can't listen to the lecture well when you are writing the notes, I suggest you record the lecture, or you can just listen to the lecture first and then borrow other people's notes to copy later.
2. Never delay doing your homework. Math requires lots of practice, so there will be lots of homework we need to do. If you delay doing your homework today, you will end up doing a lot the next day. If you keep delaying, you will eventually be unable to finish them. So do the homework as soon as possible.
3. Correct your homework by checking the student solution manual and by checking answers with your group mates. Our book only provides answers, but doesn't have the process. So when you have difficulty doing your homework, you can borrow the solution manual from the library and check the process. Understanding the process is more important than getting the answers, otherwise you will end up having difficulty solving the same type of questions again next time. Besides checking answers with the solution manual, you also need to check your answers with your group mates since the solution manual doesn't have answers for even numbered homework problems. Remember: understanding the process is more important than getting the correct answer.
4. When you have questions about lecture or homework, discuss them with your group mates or go ask Mr. Lo at office hour. Study group is very important for math learning. Discussing the problems together not only helps each group member understand the homework better, but also provides a good study environment. The more activities you do with your group mates, the more intensely you will have studied math. When you and your group mates have questions that you all can't solve, don't hesitate to go to ask Mr. Lo at office hour. Mr. Lo is very willing to help. All of these will help you understand the lecture better.
5. Mark up your notes, book materials, and homework. When you read the notes and the book, highlight the points that you think it's important for you to understand and remember. When you review your notes and book for the test, these points are the most important parts that you need to put effects on. It's like having the bold words in the book; you are making your own important points. When you do the homework, you also need do some marks. You can mark "?" for the questions that you don't know how to solve, mark "*" for the questions

that you got the answers, but you are not sure whether it's correct and you need to check later, and mark star for the questions that you think it's very valuable for you to review when you prepare for exam. Marks help you to remind yourself about the important parts of studying. When you prepare your test, these marks are the places where you need to pay more attention.

6. Take your own notes when you prepare for your test. When you prepare for your exam, you should take some notes on some piece of paper. Write down the most important concepts and the things you think that you need to remember will help you memorize and understand them. Read your notes before you sleep so that you won't forget them the next day.

Part two:

1. When you get stuck on one question in the exam, skip it and continue doing other questions first. Once I did really bad on one of my individual quizzes. It was because I got stuck on the first question of that quiz. The total quiz time is about 25 minutes and I spent almost 15 minutes on that question. When I realized that I ran out of time, I got very nervous and couldn't think very well for the rest of the questions. This nervousness caused me to do badly on the rest of the questions. On the math exam, time is very short. So when you get stuck on one question, move on first and try to make sure you got the points on the questions that you know how to do. Don't waste your exam time. If you have some extra time later, you can come back and think about that question again.

Bonus Points

Part 1:

- If you do not have time during the week to do your work, do it on the weekend. Invest the collective amount of time spent during the week over the weekend. If there is a big quiz, make sure you set aside at least the night before (preferably two nights before) to study and learn the material.
- Make flash cards of the definitions and theorems to help memorize them before the quiz/midterm.
- While taking notes, use two different color writing utensils. Use the colors to identify theorems, definitions, and proofs. Also, use the colors to indicate important things that Mr. Lo emphasized. The colors will highlight key ideas and concepts that are important to know. The colors should aid you when you look back on your notes to study.
- Schedule a routine place and time to meet the members of your group to study for the quiz. With having a schedule, you do not need to worry about who can or cannot make it. In addition, it helps to meet the day before not the day of the quiz. If you study the day of, you may not figure out how to develop the correct answer in time.

Part 2:

- A mistake I have made is getting a good score on the first midterm and then slacking off the rest of the quarter. The quarter is hard at first and then gets easier only to get very difficult at the end. Be constant with putting effort into the class. It is the journey that matters, not the outcome.
- Another mistake is that when you have a "smart partner" in your group for the group quizzes, if you sit back and let them do all the work you are not learning. In the end, you receive good grades on the group quizzes but fail the individual quizzes.
- Another mistake with the group quizzes is that when you rely on the "smart partner" to have all the right answers, you become lazy and do not check or challenge their answers. If you did your homework and knew how to do a problem but simply relied on your partner, who may have accidentally gotten the answer wrong, it may have cost you a point. Make sure to check your work as well as your partner's work.
- One more mistake concerning group quizzes is if you work smart and split up the problems for each person, it does not help. You may become an expert on one section of the quiz but during the individual quizzes, you do not have your members to rely on to help you.
- If you go to group session in the tutorial center, do not just sit there and absorb the material because it will not resonate. You need to be an active participant during study sessions otherwise you do not learn.



Advice for Future Students...

The core question you have to ask yourself is this...

Do I want to actually learn mathematics or just breeze through a class with little understanding of what I'm doing?

If you answered the latter, step away now. But if you actually want to understand math and have an understanding of how to use math, Mr. Lo is the right teacher for you.

Saying that, here are some pieces of advice to consider...

1. **Throw away your social life.** Mr. Lo's class is extremely intensive and requires you to show up to every class and spend two to three hours doing homework... EVERYDAY. I started the quarter off only spending 20 to 30 minutes of homework daily and received a low D on his midterm. Spend a good amount of time on the homework and do every problem he assigns and more. It will help you out in the long run.
2. **You know those math classes you took the quarter or quarters before? Yeah, they matter too.** Review your math terminology and technique from classes before. Mr. Lo will incorporate everything you have learned and more into new material, so brush off that 49B book that's been gathering dust and start looking at those trig functions again.
3. **Bookmark Mr. Lo's website and check it more regularly than Facebook.** Homework assignments, extra credit opportunities, and even hints for tests and quizzes appear on the website. Check everything that is posted regularly, and pay attention to everything! If Mr. Lo posts the questions for group quizzes (which he always does), dissect every question because those are points you do not want to lose.
4. **Be social and make friends the first day.** The more people you know the better. Form study groups with students, and have multiple people that are readily available to contact when you are stuck on a review question right before the test. Working with multiple people will keep you on track and they will push you to do homework if you've been slacking off. And hey, who knows there might be some hot chicks in the class and studying will be an excuse just to get to know them.
5. **Do not be afraid of Mr. Lo... go to his office hours...** If you do not understand something or just need help, show up to Mr. Lo's office hours at the tutorial center. He's a nice guy and he will help you out if you put the effort into improving your grade. Just don't go crying to him if you haven't been showing up to any office hours or doing your homework. That will not earn anybody any sympathy points. Go to office hours right before tests also, it's a great way to review with other students, and he sometimes drops little hints for the test at hand.

6. **Speak up in class.** If you don't understand a concept, raise your hand and say it. Chances are probably half the class needs further clarification also. Don't be afraid to ask homework questions also. If you either need an answer or a full demonstration, Mr. Lo will do it. Again, chances are other students had difficulty on the same questions too.
7. **Theorems? What theorems?** Know your theorems. Mr. Lo expects you to know and understand how theorems are applied to the problems at hand, so he expects you to know what they specifically say. Take a few minutes each day to review new theorems that were just taught, they will show up on tests and quizzes.
8. **Have fun, it's not the end of the world.** Even if you realize you're not doing too great in the class, just realize that you're getting a greater understanding of mathematics than most students will in a lifetime.

Math 1A - Lo

11/30'08

Advice for future students:

If you take this class you should really study seriously or you can't get A for this class. You should attend all meetings in class, listen to the teacher. Because what he said in the class usually is what the test will come up with. He always gives useful information about specific question for individual quizzes, and midterms. Especially the day before that test, usually he gives tips and tricks about how to solve and what the question typically would be. So it's very important not to miss class on that day. Also, by doing homework he gave us is really useful. Most of the questions he gave us on the midterms, and quizzes are the same structure with the homework one. If you have problems with the homework, you should go to his office hours or to tutor. Even he gave us chances to ask him question about the homework every time as the lecture going to start. That's why every time you've been assigned homework you should do it by that night. S, the day after that you could ask the problems in class, office hours, or tutor. Listening to his lecture carefully is also one strategy. Why? Because we can learn and have understanding much better from listening to him compared to reading the textbooks. It did not mean that we should not read the textbook. But by reading textbook we can get additional information if we get left behind from his lecture.

Sometimes I did mistakes while taking this class. Sometimes I did not listen to his lecture carefully. Then as the quizzes or midterm came I get some difficulties in understanding the material. Also sometimes I did not do the homework straight at that day when he had assigned on that day. Then a lot of question and problems I did not understand became too many and I did not have much time for asking those questions to tutor or to him directly. I had once assumed that the material for individual quiz was not that difficult. And that's why I took it easy and not study too much. Then at the day of the quiz I got blank and did not know what should I do with that question on the quiz. So my advice is not to take any of that as easy as you thought. You should practice every day with the problems, because by practicing a lot you will learn and become familiar with those typical questions.



Bert Lo
Math 1A

What we should do in order to succeed in class?

(My/my classmates' mistakes were in bold to differentiate)

{Study Habbits}

1. Although the professor might go over the section in class, start doing your homework after you have completed reading the section so that when you have doubts in homework question, you can refer back and self-study the examples in the book.
2. **Do your homework without book or notes, but review them with book and notes.**
3. Make sure you are not only memorizing the definitions and theorems word to word but also able to apply them into actual problem solving step by step and know the RESTRICTIONS of these theorems.
4. **It's probably going to take several weeks to finish a chapter. You should often review the previous sections, so that your whole chapter review can become more efficient.**
5. One of the best way to check your solution is not to look at the solution manual but to try your problem using a different way. This way sometimes can also help you to refresh your previous knowledge as well.
6. **Homework is designed to let you practice. Make sure you practice the problem for certain times, not just staring at it. Many of the test problems are actually EASIER than the homework, practice makes perfect.**
7. Don't get frustrated with the conceptual or application questions, figure out the logic first, then check to see if any theorems are implied to the problem.
8. **If you couldn't finish all homework questions, choose selectively and pick out different types of questions to work on so that you know where is your weakness.**
9. **It's better to make a list of rework problems, including the problems you got wrong or solved under other reference. A list of errors is also a proper tool for study.**
10. Check the website regularly. Besides homework and announcement, the posted articles also help dispensing your background knowledge and study habits.
11. Despite the point you can get simply from keeping track of the diary, this small journal is a record of your own progress, take it seriously because you can easily figure out which section is your worst by comparing the score and time you spend on studying.
12. Don't just study because it's going to be on the test. You're study for yourself, moreover, a good attitude is more important than an "A".

{ Office Hours & Study Groups }

13. Going to the office hour provides you extra information that you probably missed in class time. Don't go only before the day of tests, attend the office hour whenever you have doubts. Don't let go your questions, ask them when they're still "fresh".
14. Make sure you did prepare before asking questions and ask specific questions, because during the office hour, you're led to a solution more than just given a solution.
15. If you have any doubts on the quizzes, ask them because office hour is the best time for "bargaining".
16. **Many students meet their groups right before the group quizzes start, that's not enough. Contact each other in spare time and solve the problems together.**

{ Prepare for Tests & Quizzes }

17. Make sure you do remember your PIN# at the top of the quizzes and tests, they saved time for both the students and teachers.
18. **In order to succeed on the quizzes and mid-terms, time arrangement is essential. Therefore, you must know how to solve the problem and how to solve it quickly.**
19. **After you finish correcting your quiz, it's better to write down the problem you got wrong before turning the quiz in. Learn from the errors; these problems are your main focus to study for midterms and finals.**
20. It's wonderful that you can take your tests and quizzes 10 minutes before the class, take this advantage.
21. **Read and think about the problem carefully before you start. Do not assume since assumption is not applicable in math anyway.**
22. Make sure your mistakes are consistent, you'll still gain partial credit.
23. **Although you may not have enough time to finish the extra credit section, at least take a look at them before you start the test. During the daily lectures, write down all the counter examples given in class because these are the most favorable type of questions for extra credit section.**



Advice To Future Students

1. Vocabulary is very important make sure you know it, not only will you score easy points on the test but you will understand concepts much more in depth and your math will improve. Use note cards if necessary
2. Buy a Solution Manual. The organization of the solution is very important to master, getting the right answer is not sufficient, the solution manual will help.
3. Listen more than taking notes during lectures theres plenty of practice problems in the book and definitions are in there as well.
4. Though homework is not collected for points complete it as it is assigned, asking questions the next day is incredibly help full
5. DO NOT get behind stay on task keep your reading with the lectures and you will absorb substantially more.
6. Use the potential problems for the group quiz as practice. They come back in individual quizzes. Getting used to the style of problem is very beneficial
7. Practice the speed of your problem solving. Time is the biggest issue for your midterms, make sure you do not hesitate on anything.
8. Attend the office hours especially just before the midterm you will know exactly what to study for it, the doubts of your peers can benefit you greatly as well.

Mistakes

1. Saving all the homework for the weekend is bad idea. You wont understand anything at all until after the class is done covering it. You will absorb much more staying on schedule.
2. Memorize the definitions just knowing the jist wont get you all the points.
3. Do not neglect the practice group quiz problems they come back on the individual quizzes and tests.
4. Heavy notes in class is not effect strive more to understand than to copy.
5. Do not use a calculator when doing home work. Calculators are rarely aloud on the test.
6. Bring your book to class everyday this is very important it will keep you focused.

Advice for Future 1A Students

1. If you've taken the course before, don't let your guard down. I thought I knew most of the material, but the midterms proved me wrong.
2. Time management is important. Setting aside a few hours for this course is a must in order to fully understand the material.
3. Office hours and student tutoring center is your best bet for questions regarding the homework assignments.
4. If you're not sure about a certain problem, do ask. Fake confidence won't help.
5. Don't believe that what you miss in lecture can be gained through studying the book. Certain problems or theorems are better explained in class; it also makes it more simpler to understand compared to the text.
- 6) Know your definitions. They will be tested.
- 7) Don't slack on homework. A lot of the quiz/test problem stems from the text.
- 8) Review trig if you don't have a decent foundation in it.
- a) Understand graphs and how to interpret them
- i) Practice is the best way to learn and to remember.

PART I

MATH 1A

1. Take good notes can help you understand more easily, because when you write you will start to think and memorize.
2. Definition might be boring, but without it, you can't do anything smoothly and correctly.
3. You should be analyze all kinds of types of questions, then you will find some pattern and the same skills. Moreover, you can save your time when it comes to quiz or midterm.
4. Find out the reason why you did the homework question wrong.

PART II

1. I do homework regularly, but before the quiz I didn't review again because I thought I already got all the answer. It turned out that I forgot all those previous sections. Remember to review all the materials before the quiz.
2. I took good notes in the class, so I thought I already understood everything, which ~~can~~ let me become lazy for doing homework. I didn't do well on the first midterm, which made me notice that my thoughts are wrong. So, even you understand all the materials in the class doesn't mean that you don't need to do homework or you ~~can~~ can do well on the test.