

How To Succeed in This Course

1. In comparison with other Economics courses, this course is reading-intensive. Some of the readings are difficult and dense. Strategies for learning from the reading include:
 - a. Read slowly, and remind yourself as you go along what each paragraph meant.
 - b. Read each reading at least twice, and not twice in a row. Read it, get used to it for a day or two, and then read it again.
 - c. For each long reading, make one page of notes that pick out the most important points that the author makes.
 - d. For each reading, write down a few questions that puzzle you:
 - i. Things that seem wrong;
 - ii. Things that don't make sense;
 - iii. Things that conflict with ideas in the readings or other materials..
2. During lectures, listen to the lecture rather than transcribing them. Try to figure out what I am trying to communicate to you.
 - a. Often you can summarise what I say in a lecture in a page or less.
 - b. Close listening is more difficult than transcribing. You have to pay attention, and continuously ask yourself what I am trying to communicate to you.
 - c. After each lecture, write down a summary its key points.
 - d. After each lecture, write down:
 - e. Things that seem wrong;
 - i. Things that don't make sense;
 - ii. Things that conflict with ideas in other ideas presented.
3. Use the study questions to guide your learning.
 - a. Work with friends on the study questions.
 - b. Do NOT just divide them up and take them on individually; rather try to attack each of the difficult open-ended questions as a group of brains, not just one brain.
 - c. Typical open-ended questions do not have well-defined answers, so you often have to add information in order to answer the questions.
 - i. Thus, you must always be careful to know what information you are adding to a question to make it answerable.
 - d. Start them early, for example a week before the midterm.
4. The tutorials are used to cover material that is difficult or complex.
 - a. Thus, attendance at tutorial is useful for success in the course.
 - b. Try to push your TA to the limits of your understanding: that is, if something does not make sense to you, try to explain it to your TA so that you can get clarity.
5. Both the TA's and I have office hours which you may use.
 - a. If you don't understand things, come by and ask.
 - b. Neither the TA's nor I will answer study questions for you—that is for you and your study-buddies to tackle.