Advice to 471/571 students from former students

**Lectures:**

Don’t skip class (multiple students)

Lecture summaries are helpful but material makes way more sense when explained with context

Take notes during class

Pay attention in class, write notes

Be “present” in class: take notes, ask questions, engage with the material

Ask questions if you don’t understand something (multiple students)

Don’t be afraid to ask questions.

**Homework:**

Figure out all homework problems (multiple students)

Do all homework carefully. They are really helpful in understanding materials covered in class lecture

Work diligently on the HW. Best for reinforcing material by looking at specific examples.

Start homework early

Attempt the homework even if you don’t have time for it. Very useful for the exams.

Don’t leave homework to the last second. You need time to actually work through the problems.

Review homework answers and understand why you got something wrong.

Use the problems to learn and apply concepts

**Office hours:**

Go to office hours (multiple students)

Take good use of office hours as well as Dr. Dixon.

Don’t just ask about questions related to homework but also questions about your own research.

Use office hours to clear up any doubts or concerns

**Computing:**

Make sure you’re familiar with R (or other software)

Make sure you’re familiar with software bases. Use what you used in 587.

Don’t be afraid to change software if your initial choice is becoming unwieldy (JMP -> R)

Read through the explanation documents.

It has a lot of valuable and practical information that adds to the class notes.

The “lab” notes are key to doing the homework.

**Studying:**

Study groups are very helpful (multiple students)

What helped me the most was working with peers on the HW and discussing class topics.

Work together. Gives extra layer of accountability and forces you to talk through the material.

If you don’t understand something, some one else probably will.

One mistake I made was not working with classmates

because I didn’t know anyone or try to meet anyone.

It made things harder, especially when it came time to use R on homework.

**Other:**

Read the notes, code, code explanation documents.

Practice! practice is most important for statistics.

You will learn more by solving questions and typing code than from just listening.

Review regularly. Earlier material will be the foundation for later topics.

Spend 30 min every day doing homework and/or reviewing notes

Review foundational topics from your intro course: t-tests, confidence intervals, ANOVA

Give yourself grace. Rome was not built in a day. Senior / grad level classes are hard

Prepare a data set with several factors and use it to practice