

MATH 5630/6630
Dr. Smith
How to study for this class.

(1) The canonical calculation for undergraduate courses is 2 to 3 hours spent outside of class for each 50 minute lecture period. Equivalently: 2-3 hours per credit hour per week should be spent working on problems and exercises; for a three-hour course, this comes up to a minimum of 6-9 hours a week. There's a correlation between the hours spent per week on a course and the grade. To earn a B or an A, a student may need to spend even more time. For the summer classes, this translates to 150 minutes to 225 minutes spent on homework between lectures; this is $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ hours per two days. Some days you may spend less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and some days more than $3\frac{3}{4}$ hours to study the material or complete homework assignments.

(2) During the MWF lecture time, students will be asked to present their solutions to exercises generally followed by my comments and possible corrections. You should listen and take notes - **ask questions if you do not understand the proof or solution!** Then you should go home and try to reproduce the solution without looking at your notes. Use your notes as hints. If you still cannot figure out the solution/proof ask someone in your study group for help.

(3) Set up and use study groups. I discovered that successful students often set up study groups with friends from the class and use those groups to work through problems. I suggest that a student first works on a problem for an hour or so before asking for help. This allows the problem to be firmly set in a student's mind - so that just a "nudge" in the direction of a solution is all that is needed.

(4) Finally, ask me questions. My teaching method is based on the Socratic question and answer process - and the questioning process goes both ways.