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# INTRODUCTION

College courses are usually a shock to incoming freshmen. They require more outside work, group meetings, and a level of commitment that was previously not necessary for maintaining good grades. This guide not only contains useful advice on how to study for different types of college courses, but also some amazing resources for expanding your knowledge of the subject matter.

## Tips

### Set a timer

Study for 40 minutes, and then take a break for 10-20 minutes.

### Use the Internet

If the book explanations are ineffective, look up different explanations online.

### Set aside time

Schedule study time. If you plan ahead for studying, your mind will be better prepared to work out problems, tackle concepts, and memorize.

### Be neat

Leave space between problems and notes. Many times, students try to cram information into one page. This is confusing and difficult to follow if you need to refer to things at a later time. Leave at least one space between problems or concepts and do not be afraid to take up a lot of space.

### Draw pictures

Many math word problems, particularly in physics, are a lot more difficult to understand without visual aid. Free body diagrams create a visual representation of the forces acting on an object, making the problem more tangible and easier to solve.

## Setting Up

It’s important to find a study space without distractions. Some good places to go are:

* Libraries
* Study Rooms
* Empty Classrooms
* Coffee Shops

Once you’ve found a good study space, remember to put your phone on silent to minimize distractions. It helps to lay out all the things you’ve brought for studying at once.

## Keeping Focus

It can be hard to stay focused with everything that can happen during the course of a college semester, so staying focused throughout it is essential. Some ways to keep a level head are:

* Take study breaks
* Meet people from your class
* Pick up a few hobbies
* Finish your assignments early
* Relax a bit on your days off

## General Advice

Attend every lecture. Although it seems like common sense at the beginning of the semester, by the middle and end it’s all too easy to skip because of other things that need to be done. Instead of skipping classes to work on projects for other classes, plan ahead and manage your time efficiently to avoid this mistake.

FLY CHAPTER 1

# Studying for College History Courses

## Introduction

Making the transition from high school to a college or university can be a big jump in academic difficulty. Many people make the mistake of thinking they can breeze through without doing the required work and find themselves in trouble. Luckily, we have a few tips and tricks to make the most out of your History courses and get the all-desired A.

## What You Need

* Pen & Pencil
* Notebook
* Flash Cards
* History Textbook
* Water & Snacks
* Music & Headphones (optional)

## First Steps

To begin, one of the most important things you can do is attend every lecture. The professor that will teach you has spent a large portion of their life becoming an educator so that they can impart the knowledge they have gathered onto many students. Your professor will tell you many, if not all, of the material that you will need to know for the specific course. Use the class time to soak up as much information as you can and learn from the professor.

## In Class

During class, you should participate and be an active learner. A couple of ways you can do this are by taking notes, and asking questions. Taking notes can help you by reinforcing the material discussed aloud. Writing helps your brain retain information and is a vital part of the learning process. Sometimes, your professor will say something that you are unsure of; if this happens then be sure to ask questions. By asking the professor directly, you will help promote your understanding of the topic at hand.

## Preparing for Class

Another important part of being successful is how you handle your time outside of class hours. Before every lecture, you should check your syllabus for what area will be covered and read over it just a little bit so you are not hearing the information for the first time in class. You should also make sure to do every homework assignment given out. It is important to at least look over the assignment the first day, and then complete it before it is due.

## Studying

Tests will generally be a large part of your grade, so you need to make sure you have prepared for them. Here are a few methods you can use:

* Re-read your notes
* Create flash cards from your notes
* Find a group from your class with which to study
* Put together a regular study guide
* Look over major topics covered
* Ask the professor about anything of which you are unsure
* Consult with TAs (Teaching Assistants) about material

Utilizing the above methods can guarantee a good performance on any exam you will have.

## Tutoring

If you find that you are struggling at any point, there are resources available to students to aid you additionally. Tutors are employees of the university and are there to help you with anything you need. Making use of them can prove invaluable in times of struggle. Outside tutors are also available but can cost extra money. The History program at UNT has a help center specifically for students enrolled in history classes.

### History Help Center

Wooten Hall 220

(940) 565-4772

## Online Resources

There are some great resources for making history more interesting and fresh.

### Crash Course

This Vlog Brother Youtube channel has an amazing array of videos, from chemistry to literature. They particularly have 2 playlists that would be useful for history students: World History and US History. John Green’s fast-paced, amusingly animated web shorts about history bring famous characters to life and are arranged in chronological order, making them easy to peruse.

FLY CHAPTER 2

# Studying for College Math & Physics Courses

## Introduction

Although math and physics courses have a reputation for being difficult, with proper time management and good study habits, they become much more manageable and fun. Following these steps will help you accomplish many great things in your math and physics courses, and show you just how enjoyable they can be.

## What You Need

* Pencil
* Calculator
* Notebook
* Math and/or Physics Textbooks
* Online Resources
* Water & Snacks
* Music & Headphones

## First Steps

Attend every lecture and recitation. Recitations are particularly important because the professors or TAs often go over homework problems and answer questions. This is especially useful in very large classes, where students may not get much time to talk with professors. If the professor teaches in a style that is not conducive to the way you learn, visit the TAs during office hours to ask questions.

## In Class

Take notes in class. In math and physics courses, a large portion of the class is spent working problems. Make sure to work these problems with the professor, taking note of areas that are especially tricky and of hard to grasp concepts. If you feel sufficiently comfortable with a type of problem, test yourself by trying to complete it before the professor does.

Professors often point out areas that they feel are crucial to the understanding of the course. These almost always show up on tests, so listen for them. If you have a question, do not be afraid to ask it. Professors usually enjoy when a student shows enough interest in a course to ask questions. They are there to help you understand.

## Studying

The only truly effective way to study math or physics is to work problems. Make sure to do assigned homework, even if the teacher does not take it up. In a testing situation nerves can get in the way of memory, and if you haven’t studied enough you can forget how to do problems that you thought were easy.

One of the best ways to study is to work a problem, and then immediately check it to see if it is correct (often, the back of the textbook will contain answers to odd or even numbered problems). If it is not correct, the answer provides a point from which to work back until you feel completely solid with the way the problem is worked. You can then test your knowledge of the concept with another, similar problem. This method also helps to pinpoint any areas where simple mistakes could be made.

Sometimes the assigned homework isn’t enough to form complete ease with a concept. In this case, online resources are invaluable. Many textbooks have online resources, and links are usually found in the problem sections of chapters. The most useful thing about these resources is that they contain problems with answers. Some of these even have worked out problems so if one is giving you a lot of trouble, you can go through it step by step to see where your errors are.

If a word problem is giving you lots of trouble, remember to try drawing it out. The drawing does not need to be fancy, but anything that gives you a better grasp of the elements of your problem will help.

### Tutoring

If there’s a complicated concept, or if you’re still unsure of how a certain type of problem is worked, the best course of action is to go to the Math and Physics Tutor Labs. The student fees labs from math and physics classes fund these labs, so be sure to take advantage of them if you need help.

### Math Tutor Lab – Fall ‘13

GAB 440

Monday through Thursday: 7:00am – 8:00pm

Friday: 7:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

### Physics Instructional Center – Fall ‘13

PHYS 209

Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 10:00am – 8:00pm

Friday: 10:00am – 4:00pm

## Online Resources

There are some great resources for broadening your understanding of math and physics. The best thing is that, unlike your textbook, these are all free.

### KhanAcademy.org

This site hosts numerous videos for many different aspects of math and science. While the main focus of the site is for high school students, there is plenty to learn for college students, particularly those taking their first math or science courses in a while. The website has a fun, video game feel to it and the videos incorporate plenty of visuals.

### Minute Physics

This educational Youtube channel is made up of 1 minute stick figure cartoon videos about physics concepts.

### ViHart

Another educational Youtube channel, ViHart makes fast-paced, doodling videos that evolve into fascinating mathematical concepts based on her doodles.

FLY CHAPTER 3

# CHAPTER 3

## Video provides

a powerful way to help you prove your point. When you click Online Video, you can paste in the embed code for the video you want to add. You can also type a keyword to search online for the video that best fits your document.

To make your document look professionally produced, Word provides header, footer, cover page, and text box designs that complement each other. For example, you can add a matching cover page, header, and sidebar. Click Insert and then choose the elements you want from the different galleries.

Themes and styles also help keep your document coordinated. When you click Design and choose a new Theme, the pictures, charts, and SmartArt graphics change to match your new theme. When you apply styles, your headings change to match the new theme.

Save time in Word with new buttons that show up where you need them. To change the way a picture fits in your document, click it and a button for layout options appears next to it. When you work on a table, click where you want to add a row or a column, and then click the plus sign.

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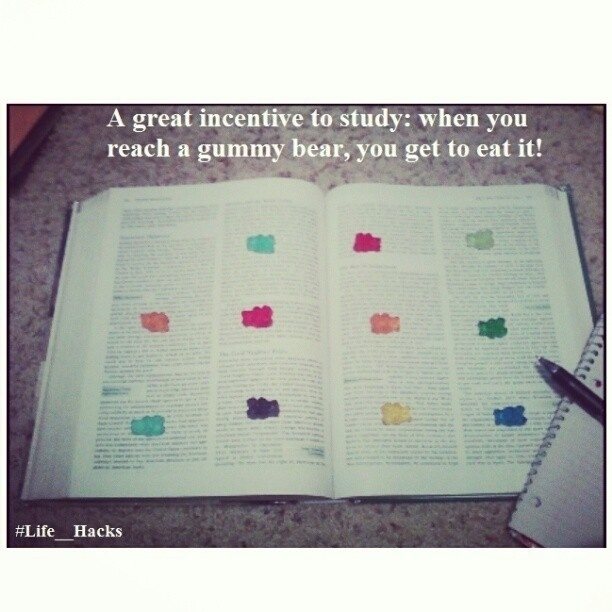
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Fly chapter 4



# CHAPTER 4

## **Studying for English Courses**

This section will teach you how to study for College level English Courses.

## **Expand your Comprehension**

* Understand everything clearly in each sentence in terms of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar.   
    
   Use [www.Dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com/)
* Write down key words and phrases from what you’ve heard.   
  Make sure that you understand the content of the dialogue as a whole.

## **Read the handbook**

* Open the book and start reading it. The best way to get started studying for college English is to read the book you're assigned just like this manual.
* Read the examples of your assignments in the textbook. They will help you plan how to do the work.
* Read, read, read, and read it again. Read it first for pleasure. Then read it again for practice. Repetition will make you a successful English composer.
* Take a break every couple of pages. Think about what you have read. Drink some water, relax, and breathe. Read longer once you get comfortable reading for extended periods of time.
* Write down notes on the side of page. It can be your thoughts, a picture, anything to help you remember.
* Snack and Study. Put a small snack in the middle of every paragraph on a page. Use snacks that won't leave a residue. Like M&Ms, Gummy Bears, or Dry Roasted Peanuts. This is called the Snack Incentive!
* When it comes time to discuss the work in class, speak up and share your thoughts. This is what language is all about. Communicating!

## **Review the Basic Grammatical Structures and Terms**

Professors for freshman and sophomore college classes expect you to already know the basic usage of grammar and the terms. It would be smart to spend some time reviewing over these terms.

Link of English Grammar Terms: <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/terms.htm>

## **Use Online Resources Wisely**

You may find it helpful to use online resources. Your first stop should be the website that your instructor or the publisher of your handbook has prepared. You're likely to find exercises to help you develop particular writing skills along with examples of different writing projects.  
  
Understand what is fact and fiction. Confirm your sources. Use an alternate source to back up the claim. Be careful of online forums. Anyone can lie on the internet.

## **Never Plagiarize**

Do not plagiarize your work. You might find online essays for sale. Do not use these! It is Plagiarism and it is cheating. You will face a lot of serious trouble if you do this and will get kicked out of school. You’ll disappoint your professor, your family, and even your pets.

## **Use Your College Writing Center**

Don’t feel embarrassed about using your writing lab. It’s not a place for dummies to go. It’s the opposite. It’s the place for all highly motivated, educated, and hardworking students go to get advice on editing essays, figuring out bibliographies, and more!

The UNT Writing Lab is in AUDB 105 – Across from Fry St.

Lab Hours are 8am - 10pm Monday - Thursday  
Friday 8am - 4pm  
Saturday and Sunday – Closed  
Phone Number : 940.565.2563

Link to the Official UNT Writing Center Page: <http://ltc.unt.edu/node/362>

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