Introduction to Logical Reasoning

Advice on How to Succeed in this Class

For some students, this logic class can be quite intimidating. However, several of my former students claim to have "cracked" the course, figuring out how to do extremely well in it. Given that they all earned A's or A+'s, I am inclined to believe them. I am absolutely convinced that anyone can do well in this course, provided he or she is willing to put in the hard work, and so I have asked these students to share their wisdom and tips for success. I have collected and organized their responses below. Follow these, and I suspect you will be pleased with the results. Ignore them, and prepare to weep.

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Do this	Don't do that
Keep up with the reading. It shows the material from a different perspective.	Skip the readings, expecting to learn everything from lecture and workshops.
Practice the material a lot, even if it means redoing problem sets. No one can do this stuff naturally.	Expect to do well by just skimming the material before a quiz or exam.
Make sure you can confidently solve the last five questions of the relevant problem set before a quiz, and the relevant problem sets before an exam.	Think that because the problem sets are not graded that there is no reason to spend time on them.
Do easier problem set questions before workshop, and the more difficult ones after the workshop (during the weekend to prepare for the quiz).	
Make sure to always compare your answers to the solutions provided. If you get the wrong answer, make a note so that you don't make the same mistake again. If you don't understand the solution, seek help right away!	
Notice the way the professor words and organizes his answers on the slides and problem set solutions. Then you'll know precisely what he is looking for during quizzes and exams!	Just answer the questions in any old way you feel like, leaving it for the profes- sor to figure out what your convoluted solutions indicate.
Always arrive to class on time. Never ever be absent. Not only do these auto- matically lower your participation grade, but also you miss a lot of material and it can be very difficult to get caught up on your own at home.	Miss class or show up late.
Treat the lecture slides like a notebook. Listen carefully to the professor and	Doodle on your slides.
take down extra notes on the margins of your slides. Date the slides and put them in order in some kind of file/folder. This helps so much for quiz/exam preparation.	Leave your slides in the classroom for the cleaners.
Concentrate during class, and especially workshops, each slide has vital infor- mation it is trying to convey.	Talk with your neighbors or plan your weekend.
Listen to the questions others ask in class because the professor usually provides an answer helpful for everyone.	Nap while the professor is answering questions.
Take your time in solving the problems during the workshops, there are no prizes for finishing first.	Rush through the problems, so you can gossip with your workshop partner about your weekend plans.
Use the workshops as an opportunity to further practice your skills in ungraded conditions. If you finish the workshop problems early, use the extra time to practice on the problem sets.	
Seek help from your partner if you need it; be kind to your partner and help them do better too.	Don't communicate with your partner at all, and just do all the problems by yourself.
Quickly look over all the questions and problems on the exam before answering them. This will allow you to identify the easy parts (where you will then start) and the hard parts (which you can save for last).	Just start answering the questions without any plan or organization, hoping that you will somehow finish it all on time.
If you get stuck on a problem or a question, just move on to the next one. You can always come back later and finish it.	Obsess over that one question that you don't understand and neglect to finish the rest of the quiz or exam.
Always try to give at least a partial answer to each question. Remember, no answer is always a 0, whereas a partial answer usually earns partial credit.	Skip questions completely.
Save time to review your answers after finishing a quiz or an exam. There is often something you will miss!	Stare off into space once you've completed a quiz, or bolt from the room im- mediately when done with an exam.
If you have any questions or concerns, see the professor or the TAs. They are all glad to help, and the TAs were once students in this class too! They remember very well what it is like to be confused.	Think you are too busy or proud to seek help.
Seek help right away when you encounter any area of weakness. Concepts build upon each other, so ignoring a problem initially will only make you more confused later.	Think you can just get help the morning before the exam.
Remember you are not a robot and that there are exceptions to every rule.	Memorize everything without understanding the underlying concepts.
Have fun! Everyone is initially scared of all the symbols and arrows, but being scared is not going to help you learn any better.	Moan and groan about how hard the material, the class, the professor, the TAs, your parents, the world, is on you. Post these complaints on Twitter, where your professor and TAs will see them.