

Survival tips for students in Math 126, Fall, 2004

- *Do* read the next section of the book before it is discussed in class. Pay careful attention and make a note of anything you do not understand completely. That way, you can ask a question about it when the topic is discussed in class.
- *Do* reread a section of the book after it is discussed in class. There won't be time to talk about everything—theory and examples—in the section during class. You *will* need to learn some things on your own.
- *Do* get the definitions, formulas, and theorems firmly in mind *before* you start the homework. At least once a week, make sure you still remember them.
- *Do* learn the concepts. This gives you a framework for understanding the material and understanding how various things fit together and makes it easier to remember things—*and* it means there is less that you have to remember.
- *Do* reread Polya's principles of problem solving, pages 58–59, if you are completely stuck and have no idea how to start a problem.
- *Do* take advantage of available help—your instructor's office hours, your TA's office hours, the help room—if you have questions or are having problems with the course.
- *Don't* leave the homework until the last minute.
- *Don't* constantly refer back to worked out examples in the text or your notes while you are doing the homework. Although you may be able to complete the homework this way, you won't learn how to do the problems, and this makes quizzes and exams tough.