

MATH 130: Numerical Analysis

Fall 2020

Tips for Succeeding in this Class¹

1. Attend all classes in their entirety. If you must miss a class, contact your instructor, TA, colleague as soon as possible to let them know what is going on and to catch up with the material.
2. The textbook is intended to supplement in class lectures (and vice versa) so if you attend class but do not read the appropriate section in the book you will miss out on a wealth of good information and on an alternate view of the material. The text is an invaluable resource as it acts as a second teacher and as a reference point when topics are unclear. However, I will not test you on material in the text which I don't also cover in class.
3. Spend 15 - 30 minutes prior to each class reviewing the notes from the previous class. This will refresh your memory and allow you to get ready for the new material.
4. Before you attempt the homework you should study your notes and read the sections in books if appropriate.
5. You will benefit greatly from working with others in the class so long as you use your peers as a way to hash over concepts and not a way to "get the answers". In other words, start early and use your fellow-classmates to discuss the best way to approach the problems. Then go off and try to work out the details yourself.
6. Begin the new homework assignment the same day you turn in the previous assignment! Do not wait 3-4 days to start the homework as then you will not have enough time to digest the material or understand the point of the problems. When computer assignments are given starting early on the homework is essential. Debugging programs takes time and your grade and learning will suffer if you attempt the computer problems at the last minute.
7. Check in to the office hours and ask for help if you are stuck. It is much better to get help early than to wait. However, I expect you to have attempted the homework problems before asking for help.
8. If you have not previously used Matlab you will need to start playing with the software the first week of class.

¹The majority of these tips (with slight modifications) are from [Dr. Minkoff's Syllabus at UT Dallas](#).