

## Advice from 23 Previous Phys 211 Students in Dr. Kamenetzky's classes

(Grouped roughly by topic; emphasis added by Dr. Kamenetzky)  
(All references to Dr. Kamenetzky (Julia) apply equally to me, Dr. Cline)

### Use Office Hours / Ask for Help:

- If you do not understand something make sure you take advantage of office hours and ask for help. The concepts generally build on one another, so it is really important to make sure you understand the concepts presented in class, and if you do not ask for help.
- 1. Go to office hours for help. 2. **Write out all the equations** used in the class on one sheet of paper for easy reference.
- Go into office hours if you have questions and if you don't get the material at first, read the textbook.
- This class does require a lot of outside effort. Instead of struggling with the homework for hours, go talk to Julia. She is very helpful and always open to answering any questions.
- Go to office hours.

### Read the textbook:

- Make sure to read before coming to class, it will help you understand the concepts from the activity guide much easier.
- Read the book more.
- Read the book.

### Use class time wisely:

- Working with a good group makes everything easier.
- Don't take the activity guides for granted.
- I would say to use your class time wisely. If you stay focused, chances are you can leave early and have a bit of a break or get some other work done. The labs are all manageable, but if you are in a group with friends, **it can be easy to get distracted and waste class time**. Also, buy a **used textbook**. They are SUPER cheap if you shop around and have **example problems** that apply directly to the homework.
- Always fill out the workbook, ask plenty of questions, and come to class.

**Start the homework early:** (From the syllabus: “A typical student can expect to work about 6 to 8 hours each week out of class, and spend anywhere from 15 to 60 minutes on each homework problem.”)

- Start the homework early!!!
- Start the homework early. It will take you 5 hours on average.
- Just be prepared for how long the homework takes.
- Don't leave the homework until the day that it is due!

### General Advice, multiple topics:

- If you are stuck on a problem, just ***go back to the basics and figure out what you know and what the problem is asking you to do.***
- Review for tests early and make a study guide/take good notes. Put the effort in for the research project.
- Go to Julia's office hours with questions on the homework, even (especially) asking how to start problems. This saved me a lot of time. Take good notes in the workbook because you can use it on the test. **Look back through the workbook for answers during the test.** I would sometimes forget that the information I needed was explicitly outlined in the workbook.
- I would say, go to office hours, read the book, and **don't be afraid of looking dumb in class.** Also, if you don't want to do any work, then you should consider not taking this class.
- Read the book and ***do problems located at the end of each chapter.*** Finish homework ***before due day*** so you are less stressed and able to ask questions. ***PARTICIPATE*** in class.
- There is a decent amount of work to be done in this class, but **as long as you put in the effort, it will pay off.** Also, I strongly recommend taking advantage of office hours. They are extremely helpful.
- Make sure you study for the class before you take it and also while you're taking it, and have a **genuine interest** in the course. I only took it because my scholarship requires me to take a year of Physics, so I was not **motivated** enough to try and do well