

## **What Advice Would You Give to a Future Student Taking This Course?**

### **Anonymous**

The class is Computational Methods; the professor is Dr. Autar Kaw. The question is will this class be challenging? The answer is an easy yes; however, your grade will not be an easy A. This should not be misconstrued to mean that this is a terrible class; quite to the contrary it is a great class and anyone taking it will learn a great deal of numerical methods and math (maybe even some irrelevant but interesting pop culture). The information available to you from the class lectures, the book, and the internet, via the course website and its YouTube videos, will be greater than most classes you have taken. While I would encourage you to attend all class lectures, if you are to miss one it will be easy to make up for it by viewing one of Dr. Kaw's personal YouTube videos on that day's topics. These are available for almost all the information in the lectures and are on the course website. The course site was made by Dr. Kaw as well.

As far as what background you will need for the class I would suggest reviewing basic calculus (differentiating, integrating, etc.) and also basic arithmetic rules, as the course is a numerical methods class and hence utilizes only "MADS"—multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction to solve problems. As stated before this is a challenging course, however, it is not impossible to get an A or a B as the scale is skewed. Dr. Kaw is a professor who likes to challenge his students, something which I feel helps to improve learning. As a side note he also has a seemingly unending knowledge of pop culture and music and will crack jokes related to them on occasion, a welcome break to lectures. However, is it important to laugh at his jokes? Yes and no, the no coming if it simply is not a funny joke (the majority of the time though the joke will be pretty good). One final note is that Dr. Kaw seems to know every formula, as well as who originally came up with it, known to man, so feel free to test him sometime!