

Recommendations To Future Students Taking Computational Methods

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To any future students who may read this let me first congratulate you on coming this far. The journey begins in earnest soon, but, for now, focus on the task at hand. Computational Methods is one of the best classes I have ever taken. It can dispel many illusions one may have concerning statistical conclusions so often cited in our society. It can also provide a stable foundation upon which important decisions can be made; decisions which may affect people's health. Learning Computational Methods is essential. Notice I said learning and not simply passing.

To truly learn this material, I recommend that every student should go to class every day. Dr. Kaw picks examples which are designed to be as instructional as possible. If an equation, or set of equations, fails to accurately describe reality, it is not by accident. To be there, in class, and journey down the set of assumptions for each failure and each success is absolutely essential so that the student may confidently question their own assumptions. Dr. Kaw has been teaching this class for millennia. He's been around the block a few times. Go to class. Listen. Learn. Try to see if Dr. Kaw is making a mistake or if all his assumptions are valid. Pay attention instead of reading the newspaper. If still unsure, practice. Just know that I have an almost perfect score in the class and I don't know what the inside of the text book looks like. Thus is the importance of showing up physically and mentally.