

My Advice

Anonymous

When I began this semester I knew two things: first, that this would be my hardest semester ever in the College of Engineering; second, that Dr Kaw is the P-Diddy of Engineering Mathematics.

Now to address the matter of this semester being so difficult, I should first mention that it is only in part due to Computational Methods. Suffice it to say I am up to my neck in classes this semester. The fairy-tale ending to all this is that I am making it through just fine. Despite my anxiety and stress of the impending semester, I am able to do very well in Dr. Kaw's class and I would like to tell you how.

When you take most courses here at USF, you get a teacher set in their ways of regurgitating knowledge, which we then consume and decipher on our own (I understand this isn't always the case but you know what I mean). The difference with Computational Methods is the amount of resources that are in place to guarantee your success in the class. First there are the online quizzes, which also appear in his textbook (which he writes himself) that if completed fully will gain you close to a passing grade alone for his exams. There are also countless YouTube videos Dr. Kaw has received grants to make on each and every subject covered in the class. And lastly, he has now begun to implement a testing system that has you taking more tests so that each covers less material. A trained monkey could learn computational methods with the ease of access to material Dr. Kaw has set up for this course.

Now I know I haven't divulged further on some of the topics but know this, once you understand what I am talking about (i.e. once the semester starts) take every opportunity you get to use these resources. Don't get me wrong, this course is not, I repeat, NOT a cakewalk. You will by no means pass the class by only doing the online quizzes a day or two before each test, or attempting to absorb information into your brain by sleeping with his YouTube videos running all night (believe me I tried). But if worse comes to worse, Dr. Kaw makes it very clear that he is more than willing to take time out of his day to help you personally. So basically it boils down to one thing: he made it impossible to fail... don't be stupid!

To touch base on the allegations of him being the P-Diddy of mathematics I just need to say this. I bet he knows more than you about any rap artist there is plus he can tell you when T-pain is scheduled for release. Top that! Oh and FYI, don't remind him of any songs in class or he will make puns about it for the next two weeks: "You guys are killing me softly—you know that."