

Advice for students taking EML 3041 at the University of South Florida

Anonymous

The Computational Methods course offered at USF has been one of my favorite classes that I have taken as part of the Mechanical Engineering curriculum. This is in part mainly to the professor, Dr. Kaw. His teaching methods go above and beyond many other professors as he takes great care to value his students as his first priority. Before I took the course I had heard numerous rumors about Dr. Kaw and the class, ranging from his impossible tests to his ruthlessness “don’t care if his students pass” attitude. The tests are more than fair since they are based on Bloom’s Taxonomy and Dr. Kaw is almost always readily available in his office if you have questions, even after his office hours. My advice for future students taking the EML 3041 class is simply the following:

- Go to class and take notes: This will ensure that you are at least trying and I guarantee that you will soon notice how much more you will get out of Dr. Kaw’s lectures compared to other courses.
- Use the course website: I cannot emphasize this enough. The website literally has just about everything you need to learn the material covered in the class ranging from lecture notes, practice quizzes, and the infamous YouTube videos. It is an extremely valuable resource.
- Learn to use your TI-30XA: You have to use this calculator, so get used to it. Use it for other classes if you have to just so you can get some practice with it. The last thing you want is to take a test not knowing how to use your calculator.
- Go speak with Dr. Kaw: If you have a question about anything class related go see the professor. Dr. Kaw does more than just answer the question and is very good at understanding exactly why you may not be “getting” something.

Ultimately, success in every class is dependent upon the student. You have to willingly put forth effort and study to earn good grades and this course is no different. What does make this course different is the amount of time Dr. Kaw has put forth into designing the course to be as easy on his students as possible. The concepts can be difficult and you should spend a lot of time studying for this course, but once you get through it you will be thankful for having a professor like Dr. Kaw.