

HOW CAN I DO WELL ACADEMICALLY IN THIS CLASS?

This question has about a 5-part answer.

Class

1. Come. (Sorry, but some people just don't get this one).
2. Remain conscious through a majority of the period. Inject Mountain Dew intravenously if necessary.
3. Assuming you're doing the first two, then, seriously, understand that my particular philosophy of teaching requires you to be an **active** learner in class. I don't just lecture about the OT or much less, dictate what you should write down. I try to walk you through each book in such a way that you arrive at truth on your own. I don't always accomplish that goal, but I'm almost always aiming at it. This means, that if you're waiting for me to quote a really memorable phrase before you take notes, your notebook may go away empty (not to mention your head). But if you're always asking yourself, "What is the author of Genesis saying" or "what is the Prof trying to get me to see?" then you're on your way to learning.
4. I really like to have fun in class, and I enjoy my students and my subject very much. But don't think that if we're having a good time we're not learning. In fact, I'll often try to use humor to drive home a point or to help you remember something. So, if you're laughing, chances are you should be writing something down very soon. Don't be fooled by the atmosphere: I like to laugh, but humor is an important tool to help us all learn about an unbelievably important and serious subject.

Notes

1. Make it your goal to write down as much as you can. Another of my goals is to really make the OT simple to understand, but sometimes this backfires. Too often people agree that a concept in class is not too difficult, and choose not to take any notes. Then when it comes time to study for the exam they are clueless. It's also true that one simple concept which builds on another simple concept, which builds on another simple concept, can, in the end, be very complex. So, even if you think it's unnecessary, try to write down as much as you can, especially until you've aced at least one exam.
2. As you write notes, do your best to write out complete thoughts in your own words. Don't just write down key words or phrases that you hear me say. There's something really magical about sounds coming into your ear, being processed in your mind, and then having them flow out your pencil and taking on permanent form.
3. One technique that we often use in class is to propose an idea or an interpretation of a passage. Then we'll discuss it and afterwards discover that though it may be well accepted in many circles and by tradition, that it isn't the best view. Make sure that if you write down one of those views in class that you also write down that it is a **WRONG** view, before we move on to the next concept.
4. You paid for the paper notes: fill 'em up.

Reading

1. Keep up with your reading, but don't get too far ahead of schedule. Make sure that your reading was done recently enough so that you're able to follow along in class.

2. Check out the **OT READING GUIDE** at the end of your printed notes and read through those questions before you do your reading. It'll make your reading much more profitable and even if you can't answer all the questions you'll be much quicker to understand the answer when it's discussed in class.

Studying

1. The most important studying you can do for OT is to just take 10-15 minutes a night to review your class notes and complete your thoughts. Most people who do this end up with an "A" in the course.
2. When you study for a major celebration, study by yourself until you've mastered your notes and have answered as many of the study questions in the back of your notes as you can.
3. Then, and only then, find a couple of OT friends who've done their homework as well and can compare answers with you. Studying in a group is only efficient when each person is already up to speed on their own.

Taking Exams

1. I'm not out to "get you" or to trick you on an exam.
2. I will try to find out how well you've listened and if you're able to use the principles learned in class to answer questions you may not have thought of before.
3. Bring an unmarked, Non-study Bible to class. All my exams are Open-Bible, but you can't use a Bible that has ANY kind of notes, or helps in it. Just bring a plain, vanilla Bible (sprinkles are optional).
4. After the exam has been graded and you've received your scantron back in the mail, then bring **your notes and the scantron form** with you after class or come anytime to Mrs. Bromer's office (Bible Department secretary) on the second floor of Founders Hall, room 222 and ask to see the exam with the key. Review the question(s) you missed and try to find out why. Do you need to take better notes? Did you not understand it well enough in the first place? Do you need to study better? Etc. After you've done that, if you want to talk with me, I'd be more than happy to sit down with you and see what we can do.
5. If you still need help, then bring your notes and exam to my office or make an appointment via e-mail to see me, and I'll be glad to work through it with you.

Writing the inductive paper

1. Follow the sample guidelines given on the web page and you'll do fine.
2. The sheet describes what is necessary for full credit.