

## Voices of Experience

Excerpts from Essays on “*What I would have done differently if I were taking BOT 3015 over again, or Actions that helped me achieve my grade goal in BOT 3015.*”

“. . . reviewing the tests after the grading.” ∪ “I never left myself enough time to study.” ∪ “. . . assumed it was going to be a breeze. I definitely had a rude awakening.” ∪ “. . . come to class every day, and pay attention to detail. We covered so much in one class period.” ∪ “. . . daily reading and answering of objectives.” ∪ “. . . redraw the life cycles.” ∪ “Read the class notes thoroughly including all the footnotes, attend the help sessions, attend every class lecture . . .” ∪ “read the information in the textbook that pertains to each lesson after it is gone over in class.” ∪ “. . . work on the objective questions each day after class.” ∪ “. . . explaining to another person a concept helps me to understand it and remember it.” ∪ “. . . read the objectives before class.” ∪ “Plant Biology is a challenging course” ∪ “. . . take advantage of every extra credit point offered.” ∪ “. . . study in the evening after a lecture while all the new material is fresh.” ∪ “. . . register for the lab that goes along with the lecture.” ∪ “. . . review the test after it has been graded.” ∪ “Attend every help session and bring my own specific questions.” ∪ “. . . make sure I knew the footnotes to get all the extra points.” ∪ “Study class notes after class.” ∪ “Do not procrastinate.” ∪ “I would have taken better notes in class.” ∪ “An A in this class is easily obtainable.” ∪ “I believe that my lack of preparation before each lecture is what kept me from reaching my full potential.” ∪ “. . . footnotes are . . . such an easy way to supplement your grade.” ∪ “. . . going to the help sessions really helped me.” ∪ “Studying in the library where it is quiet would have helped me more than anything.” ∪ “Do the objective questions as if they were homework to turn in.” ∪ “. . . questions asked on the exams were not normal multiple-choice questions. . . . you had actually understand the material.” ∪ “Get more sleep at night.” ∪ “Be attentive during class time.” ∪ “I learned that I needed to relate concepts.” ∪ “. . . spend less time trying to memorize facts and figures and more time trying to understand the concepts.” ∪ “. . . because I never truly learned the material for the first exam, it messed me up on the second.” ∪ “Taking the lab along with the class could have been very beneficial.” ∪ “When I read the preliminary comments that said ‘Expect the tests to be hard,’ I would have paid attention!” ∪ “[The textbook] was very helpful in understanding the basics [of prerequisites], which needed to be understood in order to comprehend the more complicated material [in the course].” ∪ “Read the lecture notes before class.” ∪ “I would be sure I had a deeper grasp of the concepts.” ∪ “. . . necessary to come to class daily and be attentive.” ∪ “. . . vital to go home and read the material yourself.” ∪ “. . . go to the help sessions.” ∪ “. . . review your tests after they are graded.” ∪ “Do not slack off!” ∪ “Another way to achieve a higher score is to review all the past exams.” ∪ “I made the mistake of studying for exams the night before, which is not possible due to the amount of information we’re expected to know.” ∪ “I find that actively writing in class and putting into my own words the material better helps me to engage in learning, rather than just listening and running the risk of letting my mind wander.” ∪ “. . . ranks with some of the more difficult subjects I have taken.” ∪ “Quantitative information was important.” ∪ “Simply attending class and paying close attention, especially to the visuals, has facilitated my learning and heightened my interest in the subject matter, both of which help when studying for exams.” ∪ “. . . had an extremely difficult time doing well on later tests . . . because I did not spend enough time studying for earlier tests.” ∪ “. . . underestimated the difficulty of exams. . . .” ∪ “. . . extremely helpful to attend the review sessions.” ∪ “. . . review the material prior to attending class each day.”

Excerpts from Essays on “*Mutual Respect & Trust in the Classroom,*” by students in BOT 3015.  
“I’ve missed several key points because someone around me was talking with another person.” ∪ “I like the fact that professors hold onto exams instead of returning them back to students.” ∪ “The consequences of a violation of the academic honor policy should not be taken lightly.” ∪ “A lot of students are not aware of the proper way to cite sources.” ∪ “Respect should always be a top priority in any classroom setting.” ∪ “I get annoyed when other students are having side conversations when I’m trying to concentrate on something.” ∪ “Putting filthy shoes on surfaces I have to touch grosses me out.” ∪ “I think those who try to take the easy way out should be punished more severely than to just be given a grade of F” ∪ “I hate it when there are only five minutes in class and people leave.” ∪ “Out of respect for the professor and one’s self, cheating should not occur.” ∪ “Sometimes students truly have no self-awareness and may not realize that they are causing a problem.” ∪ “Students who persuade teachers to give an unwarranted extension on a test or final have an unfair advantage over the rest of us.” ∪ “I think there should be respect in the classroom—respect from the teacher for the students and the students for the teacher and peers.” ∪ “Cheating on exams is essentially a choice to lie to the professional world from that point on.” ∪ “. . . most important honor-code violation—students who have access to old tests, etc.” ∪ “. . . really crack down hard on all attempts at cheating.” ∪ “it is the student’s responsibility to uphold the highest standards” ∪ “When all is said and done, at the end of one’s life, exams don’t matter, how one lived his life does.” ∪ “I believe that lack of respect is at the root of cheating.” ∪ “The most you can get out of cheating is a few points on an exam but getting caught can lead to *serious* repercussions.”