

# Advice from 2019 Students

(as of January 15, 2020)

The following is a complete list of comments that students provided when prompted to give advice to future students.

## 1 Watch the Videos / Prepare for Class

**Watch the video lectures** closely and the second you don't understand, ASK FOR HELP. It's very easy to fall behind.

**Take notes** while watching the video lectures.

It is really helpful to **watch the video lectures and then review with the lecture notes afterwards!**

**I would advise them to always watch video lectures and to even watch some multiple times over depending on your understanding. I also found using the lecture notes to be very helpful and not rushing through the quizzes** just because they may only be two questions. I also like to sometimes take my own notes on videos to capture the language that helped me best get the concepts behind the formalisms.

**I think watching the video lecture before class and again after class would be very helpful** and do not leave the HW until Sunday night because some take much longer than other assignments.

**Definitely stay on top of all the at home material.** Do not be afraid to ask questions. Study a lot for the midterm - it is hard.

**definitely doing the readings / video lectures is important for making the most of class time,** because the information is set up via lectures and then enhanced through in-class work.

**You will do well if you watch the video lectures while taking notes and try to understand them before doing the quizzes,** and don't be afraid to ask your group/TAs/prof questions during class if you don't understand something!

**Definitely to take the video lectures and quizzes seriously because they are so critical to your ability to do well in this SAIL class. I usually focused well during the video lectures and would watch them a few times before taking quizzes and I found the days where I did not pay as close attention or rewatch certain parts were days when the quizzes felt harder and the in-class problem sets were particularly challenging. Reading over lecture notes before class or the quizzes was also very helpful!** Going to office hours and emailing the TA and professor played a huge role in my ability to do homework assignments and study for exams.

**Watch the video lectures and summary notes,** and if you still have questions be sure to ask the TAs or the professor. Also participate in class as that's where you learn the most.

actually listen **actively to the video lectures**

**Honestly, I think just do the video quizzes and HW a bit ahead of time.** I wish we were able to have longer on quizzes so we could think and come back/change answers. **So definitely read and do videos before opening the quiz.** There is a lot of material and a lot of resources, use them all!

The video lectures are long but very necessary to watch.

Watch video lectures before class

**Stay on top of your work. Keep up with video lectures** and as soon as you don't understand a concept or idea, ask!

**Do the video lectures earlier than the night before class.** That way you can ask questions about concepts before you have to take the respective video quiz.

Make sure to make the most out of the TAs and all the work given. **Read the lecture notes and watch the video lectures.** They both help in understanding greatly.

**Be sure to do all the video quizzes** and pay good attention in class!

I would definitely suggest **reading the assigned chapters and/or watching the video lectures before EVERY class** - if you fail to do either of those, you will not be able to contribute to the in-class work and will be struggling to catch up for at least the next couple of classes.

## 2 Admit when Lost and Ask Questions

Watch the videos and attend office hours to learn topics. **Be honest when lost because often you are not alone and people just do not know how to say they are lost too!**

Make sure to go through practice problems again on your own time, and **don't hesitate to speak up when you don't understand something in class.**

Definitely watch the video lecture and do the quiz before class- even though you may not fully understand the concepts yet after just the video, just having encountered the concepts before class in any way will help. 100% come to class all the time, or you'll get behind. **When in class, don't be afraid to admit you don't understand something, cooperate w your group members, and ask a TA for help, bc that's way better than being stuck on one question all class.**

I would encourage future students to **ask questions about topics that confuse them, and to have an open mind towards the different perspectives of their group members.**

Definitely attend office hours, watch the video lectures more than once, and take detailed notes. **Ask questions in class, and take notes while working on problem sets.**

My main advice would be to **ask lots of questions!** The class is perfectly structured to set you up to ask questions in a small group setting, since doing it in a big group very often can be intimidating or may seem like "wasting time."

Ask questions as soon as you don't understand something.

**Don't be afraid to ask your group and the TAs about things you don't understand, because chances are your group doesn't understand them either and your TAs can use the opportunity to help all of you!**

**Don't be afraid to be wrong with your group members, and be kind when someone else is confused.** Defend your ideas but be open to seeing why someone might think a different way. Ask the TAs questions after you've already thought through how you'd proceed. Look at HW a few times before starting it, the second look will be a lot easier once you've considered the ideas and connections.

Definitely stay on top of all the at home material. **Do not be afraid to ask questions.** Study a lot for the midterm - it is hard.

You will do well if you watch the video lectures while taking notes and try to understand them before doing the quizzes, and **don't be afraid to ask your group/TAs/prof questions during class if you don't understand something!**

Definitely to take the video lectures and quizzes seriously because they are so critical to your ability to do well in this SAIL class. I usually focused well during the video lectures and would watch them a few times before taking quizzes and I found the days where I did not pay as close attention or rewatch certain parts were days when the quizzes felt harder and the in-class problem sets were particularly challenging. Reading over lecture notes before class or the quizzes was also very helpful! **Going to office hours and emailing the TA and professor played a huge role in my ability to do homework assignments and study for exams.**

Watch the video lectures and summary notes, and **if you still have questions be sure to ask the TAs or the professor.** Also participate in class as that's where you learn the most.

Stay on top of your work. Keep up with video lectures and **as soon as you don't understand a concept or idea, ask!**

Participation guarantees at least some level of success, so showing up to every class is crucial. The beauty

of the class is that it requires you to stay caught up because of the video quizzes and regular homework. **Don't be afraid to say that you don't understand something to your group members.**

### 3 Make use of TAs

**Make sure to make the most out of the TAs** and all the work given. Read the lecture notes and watch the video lectures. They both help in understanding greatly.

I would tell them to go to office hours.

Take advantage of TA office hours!

**Take advantage of the TAs, definitely in class and out of class if necessary too.** Make sure you're someone who feels comfortable in a small-group setting if you want to take this course.

**Definitely attend office hours**, watch the video lectures more than once, and take detailed notes. Ask questions in class, and take notes while working on problem sets.

if you don't understand one lecture, **go to office hours/ get some type of help because if nt, you'll just keep falling more and more behind**

Do the video lectures earlier than the night before class. **That way you can ask questions about concepts before you have to take the respective video quiz.**

Don't be afraid to be wrong with your group members, and be kind when someone else is confused. Defend your ideas but be open to seeing why someone might think a different way. **Ask the TAs questions after you've already thought through how you'd proceed.** Look at HW a few times before starting it, the second look will be a lot easier once you've considered the ideas and connections.

### 4 Start Homework Early

Try to **get to the homework assignments as early in the week as possible** as there will often be questions that go beyond the notes and in class assignments and it can be useful to get help

Make sure to **get started on the homework early** and ask if you have any questions!

I think watching the video lecture before class and again after class would be very helpful and **do not leave the HW until Sunday night because some take much longer than other assignments.**

Don't be afraid to be wrong with your group members, and be kind when someone else is confused. Defend your ideas but be open to seeing why someone might think a different way. Ask the TAs questions after you've already thought through how you'd proceed. **Look at HW a few times before starting it, the second look will be a lot easier once you've considered the ideas and connections.**

### 5 Be Active in Class

Make sure to **pay as much attention and maximize in class time as that is the most helpful time for learning.**

Go to class. Don't skip class

**Attend the lectures because the in-class problems with the professor and the TAs as a great source for information and help will help them understand the materials better.** Watch the video and do the quizzes beforehand because they help them get a basic understanding of the material even if they don't completely understand them.

**Don't panic if a new topic seems overly confusing.** The practice problems in class do a great job of breaking it down into simpler pieces to enhance understanding.

**Participation guarantees at least some level of success, so showing up to every class is crucial.** The beauty of the class is that it requires you to stay caught up because of the video quizzes and regular homework. Don't be afraid to say that you don't understand something to your group members.

Watch the video lectures and summary notes, and if you still have questions be sure to ask the TAs or the professor. **Also participate in class as that's where you learn the most.**

## 6 General/Other

Keep up with the work over the course of the semester. Take the video quizzes seriously - they really add up in terms of points. Go to office hours. Ask questions.

Don't write it off in the beginning if it seems easy. The concepts get more involved and become harder to grasp

Do the challenge problems. They are fun.

Have fun and keep up with the work!

Definitely engage with your group. My first group and I weren't well matched and I didn't feel as confident in my collaboration with them, but my second group helped boost my confidence in the material because we were able to ask honest questions of each other to get to the best answers.

The semantics portion of the course is harder than the rest, make sure to stay on top of understanding the material near the end!

Do the video quizzes early.

It is a fun course; sometimes I did wish there was a little more traditional structure to the course (without eliminating the group work), but overall I did like the active learning setup.