

Chris Demet
Political Science and Economics Major

Scheduling Tips:

- I. In a way to force myself to be efficient, I have developed a scheduling system that I think works well. I try and start early (9 or 10 am) with classes, because I know that if I start later (noon or 1) on average, I will NEVER get anything done before my first class of the day.
- II. If possible, I put two to three hour blocks of time in between classes. This is good because in those blocks of time you can do homework or prepare for the next class. The only thing is, you cannot allow yourself to go home during this period, or else you're just wasting time.
- III. I like to schedule one night class per semester. And typically on Thursday nights. Two reasons: having one night class can really allow you to have more freedom and two hour blocks mixed in with your daytime weekly schedule. Also, finishing night class on Thursday nights has a great feeling of finality of the week to it, and it is a great way to kick off the weekend.
 - a. I would not depend too heavily on night classes, or try to craft the schedule where you never have to wake up before eleven am. You will not get anything done all semester, because you will never wake up early if not for a class.

Where to Study:

- I. The Law Library on the West Bank is the best library period. The law students will shoot you dirty looks when they see you reading a geology book, but fear not, everybody is allowed in there, they just like to be pretentious. It is open until 2 am also, and all night during finals. Parts of it are open all night all the time. Well worth the walk.
- II. Being freshman, I am sure you have discovered the Biomedical Library, Diehl (sp?) Hall. If not, it is in the basement of Moose Towers. Parts of that are open until 3 am, and the lobby area is open all night, although it is generally populated, loud, and overall not great.
- III. The Purple Onion in Dinkytown is, as far as I know, the earliest opening place on campus, opening at 6:30 am. The libraries all open at 7 am, but only the lobbies at that time, and you have to deal with cleaning crews and general annoyances.

Study Tips:

- I. One of the best realizations that I ever made as a student was noticing how much more efficiently I work while under deadline and in the morning as opposed to the night.
 - a. If I have a paper due the next day, I will research and prepare in the approaching days, but I will leave the writing for the day/night before AND the morning of. Many times all editing will be on the morning of. This time frame is better for the continuity and focus of the paper as well.
 - b. If I have a test, I will study the night before, but I will leave a few practice questions for the next morning, and I will wake up very early and be

studying up until 15 minutes before the test, when it is best to let your mind reflect.

- c. If I have a lot to do, instead of working late into the night (staying up until 4 am) and be dry-eyed and nodding off while at work, I will sleep from 11 pm to 3 am, then wake up, chug coffee and pound away. You will be amazed at how alert even a few hours asleep will make you. I know Mike Arenson likes to do shorter (1 hour) naps. I find that if it's not at least three or four hours it does nothing for me, but this is a point of preference.
- II. Do not feel guilty about not spending every night at the library, so long as when you are at the library, you actually are studying, and not daydreaming or wasting time.

What to Read (Most Useful for Liberal Arts Students):

- I. In my first three semesters at the U, I read anything and everything that was assigned by my professor, and I got all A's. Since then, I have actually read about 20% of what was assigned, and skimmed about 75% of it, and I have gotten all A's (I don't say this to brag, only to legitimize my advice). I have always gone to every lecture. I heard a series of lectures by a U of Texas professor who made the point: it takes a professor a minute to put something on the syllabus that he thinks you ought to read, but it takes you two hours to read it. Professors do not take into account the fact that you have a life, and they will often assign readings that ultimately will have no bearing on your grade.
 - a. Always be thinking about the factors of your grade. Are there frequent quizzes (more reading will be necessary), or only a midterm and a final (going to class and cramming for the two will only be necessary)? Ask the teacher what the midterm will be based more on – lecture notes or reading – many times they will tell you the truth.
 - b. Know what you're missing. This why I skim a lot of things, and at least glance at the subject lines of everything. This is especially useful for writing papers, where you can read anything thoroughly once you determine that you can cite it, but you will not have the idea to cite it at all unless you know generally what it is about.
 - c. Tests tend to be based on lecture more than anything, so go to class, but don't necessarily do all the reading, but you will have to feel out each professor. One thing you cannot skimp on is going to class if you plan on getting an A, even if you promise yourself you will do all the reading.

Where to Print:

- I. Never pay for printing. There is free printing all over. Your community should have free printing – mine is the social science community in Heller Hall, and there is free printing in their lab. I think the Honors Offices have free printing. And the Law Library does, but that is when you might get some really dirty “oh my god, are you an undergrad” looks.

Office Hours:

- I. Office hours are really helpful, either for one-on-one help, showing your professor or TA that you care enough for him to give you full points on

participation, or for a less guarded, more truthful answer to the question, “so, what kind of things will be on the midterm?”

Balancing School and Ultimate:

- I. It can be done, there are many people on the team who get near perfect grades and never miss a practice. Use practice as a study break. Bring your stuff and go straight from the library to practice. But mostly, just manage your time, and don't fuck your teammates by not managing your time and then skipping as a result.

For Political Science or Economics Majors:

- I. I am happy to tell you what I know about teachers or classes, or general concepts that are more specific to the majors. Let me know if you need anything. Phone is 414-758-9585.