



Exam Study Strategies:

- **Make a Cheat Sheet**
 - The goal is to create a personalized reference that contains everything you need to know to solve problems for the class.
 - How to make:
 - Look over each homework problem and ask yourself what you needed to know to solve the problem. Add that to the cheat sheet.
 - Identify common problem types and write step-by-step instructions for solving
 - Include drawings of diagrams you found helpful
 - When writing down important equations, label what each variable represents and note when you are (and are NOT) allowed to use the equation.
 - Make notes of mistakes that you've made and how to prevent them
 - After you create a draft cheat sheet, use it as your only reference when doing practice problems. If you can't solve a problem just using the cheat sheet, figure out what needs to be added and add it.
 - Once you've worked with the draft version for a bit, re-write the cheat sheet in a neat and orderly format so that you can easily find what you're looking for when referencing it.
 - This will be a great resource for a final exam and also for future classes!
- **Practice Problems / Exams**
 - Use cheat sheet as only reference
 - Do a practice exam in a timed environment
 - Look at your homework or practice exam as if you were a grader.
 - Can you follow the thought process with just what is written on the paper?
 - Is there enough context to award partial credit if the answer is wrong?
 - What did you spend the most time on?
- **Create your own exam problems**
 - Put yourself in the professor's shoes and write your own exam.
 - Think about what topics you've covered and how you would construct a problem to test someone's knowledge of the topic.
 - Do this activity with a classmate and compare the exams you came up with. Did you cover the same topics? Are you able to solve each others' problems?



Day-of Exam Strategies:

- Anxiety management
 - Breathing Exercises
 - Cold water
 - 5-4-3-2-1 Senses
 - Rainbow grounding
- What to do when you don't know what to do
 - Ask "What tools have I learned that could apply to this problem?" (recall cheat sheet)
 - Draw a diagram, even if it feels super basic or silly
 - Write down knowns and unknowns and give them variables
 - Make the problem easier:
 - Identify what is making the problem complicated.
 - Ignore the complication and think about how to solve the simpler version of the problem (e.g. how would I solve this problem without friction?)
 - How would you change the simple-solution method to address the added complication?
- Checking your work
 - Accept that small mistakes (typos, algebra errors, etc) are inevitable and are even more common in exam settings. Focus on effectively catching the errors instead of ineffectively preventing them.
 - Check your units as you go
 - If two terms are added, they need to have the same units
 - Does your end answer have the units it needs?
 - Check the limiting case
 - What happens when a distance/angle/velocity/mass/etc is really big? What happens when it is really small or zero?
 - Do those behaviors match with your physical intuition?
 - Pretend your work is that of your sworn enemy.
 - Don't check that your work is correct – assume that it is wrong and try to figure out how.
 - Check algebra steps by working backwards (bottom to top) instead of forward (top to bottom)
 - This helps avoid falling into the same mental groove that led to the initial mistake.