## What advice would you give a student taking ESP160 next year? (Students in Spring 2018 providing advice to students in Spring 2019.)

## 89 responses

My biggest advice would be to attend class every day. There are attendance checks and class activities and which are sometimes unannounced. It's also just a good way to keep up with the information as there is a lot of stuff to catch up on if you miss a day.

I would advise students to never miss a class and try their hardest to give their full attention to every lecture. Discussion sections are a great source of clarity as well as classmates. Try and stay close with your groups members and ask them for help whenever you don't understand something. Also, make sure to get help from the TAs on your papers!

I would advise student to attend all classes and discussions! Apart from getting easy points attending the discussions is a great way to have an overview of what we have learned in lecture. Also, I would suggest not fretting over reading each and every word in the readings (maybe I shouldn't suggest this) but 40 pages for one paper is not worth reading word for word especially since we are going to be presented by the students during discussion.

Take good notes during the lecture and then your quizzes will be fine. Following the instruction when writing your research papers. Office hours are helpful so I highly recommend to go to TAs or professor's office hour, especially when writing your research papers.

Go to class!! Attendance and in-class activities are easy points! Also, go to your TAs for help when writing the research part of your paper. It's where a lot of your points go towards so take a little extra time on that when you do your outline so you can just ask them in class instead of trying to go to office hours or setting up an appointment time.

Go to every class and discussion section, the participation points really add up in the end.

Make sure you do the readings! They will not only help you with the quizzes, but will also help you write your paper 1000% faster. Gwen is extremely knowledgeable, and is a great resource in general. Word of advice; you'll get a ton of points for seemingly nothing, which is great, but that may lead you to underestimate the papers. They're graded pretty harshly. I averaged a B+-A- on course papers here at Davis, yet consistently get C's on the papers for this class. TA's may go a bit overboard, you've been warned.

Make sure to attend class, make a good effort it really is important, a lot of free points are given just for showing up and listening. The readings are important and the TAs and the professor are invaluable resources. The quizzes really do focus on the readings and direct stuff form lecture, this is an intensive course, but pays itself off. By doing what is outlined in the syllabus it is easy to succeed.

Attend. Office. Hours. The first paper is especially rough, so go to office hours and ask a ton of questions. When studying for exams, focus on aspects of the required articles that are important and unique. I'd say read through the articles a couple of times, the time invested will be worth it.

Read the articles assigned each week! Some can be a little long and I know we all have a lot going on but they will definetly help with understanding the concepts. Also, there's always questions about these articles on the quizzes!

Attend class and sections, it helps bolster your grade!

Definitely go to office hours. The TAs and the professor are really helpful in helping you through the course especially when it comes to the papers.

I would suggest if this is early on, do not take this class at the same time as ESP 161, both require large amounts of readings. If you can space these classes out I would highly suggest doing so. Another good idea is to buy the CORRECT VERSION OF THE BOOK. Do not think that the older one is adequate

especially because when you buy it you don't know which section you are presenting on and you could need a chapter that is not in the older edition.

After completing this class my advice is that before quizzes you read the articles, review the class powerpoint, the powerpoint the TA presents and the different powerpoint from each section. The same material being presented numerous ways in different styles and formats really helped me be prepared for the quizzes. The textbook and office hours are also very helpful for the papers.

Go to office hours for help on the essay! Even just hearing a few tips can really help your grade. Also, make sure to go to class and discussion! There are random attendance checks and group activities that are easy points that are meant to help you when you need a grade bump at the end. When studying for the quizzes, it's not always about memorizing every little detail, because there's a lot of information. Instead, really try to understand what you're reading, and the quiz won't be that bad. The questions are mainly focused on big picture stuff, so having a good grasp of the overall structure of the framework (like hypotheses of the framework, examples of scenarios applying the framework, etc.) will really help. This class really focuses on critical thinking rather than just memorization, so understanding the material is key. I found the quizzes to be generally pretty fair, but they can be challenging. Don't underestimate the importance of doing the readings--at the very least have a general understanding of what the reading talks about, because those are easy points to lose on the quizzes.

Read the papers posted on Canvas and review lecture slides if you want to do well on the quizes. The two papers focus on the same topic, so make sure to pick a topic you are really interested in and make sure that you can find enough resources on it..this will make your life easier. There are two different discussion workshops for the papers and they are only helpful if you put effort into your paper outlines. Remember to do the readings and review TA's discussion slides before quizzes. Some of the group presentation slides are really good study materials for quizzes as well. TAs and Gwen are super helpful with papers.

I would recommend going to all the classes because the heavier material questions on the quiz come from lectures (which draws heavily from the textbook...so reading through the text will be a lot easier...and often not as necessary to read unless you're using it to study before a quiz). The papers seem kind of daunting but can actually be pretty straightforward if you get help during discussion or office hours and just follow the paper guidelines. Make sure to do the article readings before the quizzes because there are always questions that make sure you read the articles.

Attend lecture because you can get a lot of points for all the attendance checks and class activities. Know the readings well for the quizzes, you can do this just by reviewing the group presentations from discussion. Go to office hours or email your TA's questions about the essays because they are super helpful.

The best/easiest way to get a good grade in this class is to show up for lecture and discussion. I found the quizzes to be fairly easy to study for based off of attendance and listening during lecture. Gwen and the TA's are awesome and really do want you to succeed by providing a lot of grade cushion and making themselves available when you need, so definitely take advantage of that.

Go to discussion! It's really helpful for reviewing the readings and the topics discussed in class. The TA's review slides are really helpful for studying for the quizzes.

beware of random attendance checks...do not write the papers on the same day its due.. or the day before..

Make sure to read the papers and review the TA's slides (as they are very helpful and condensed) for the quizzes. I also strongly suggest utilizing office hours for the papers because it super easy to believe you grasp the concept in relation to your chosen paper topic and end up finding out that you don't and struggle with it. If you have any issue or questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the professor or the TAs as they will help you the best they can. The theories can be a bit overwhelming, but they're also interesting to learn and apply once you do understand!

Set a reminder to get the discussion questions in on time

Go to class every day, pay attention in discussion, use discussion slides to study for quizzes, and start the papers early.

Read the whole of the assigned reading, don't skim it. You will be tested on minuscule details for all but one or two questions on each quiz.

Get help on your papers early, especially the research design section of the paper, that is where a lot of people get hung up/have trouble.

Get help to start out your papers so you can have a good direction.

If you are financially struggling, you don't need to buy the textbook! The important articles to read each week are usually posted on Canvas. You must read the assigned articles to do well on quizzes, don't skim through them. If you opt to not buy the text, study lecture slides to understand the policy framework. If you don't study, you won't do well in this class. Office hours are really helpful to talk through the paper assignments, which can be confusing at first.

Go to office hours, especially Gwen's. She was very helpful when I went to office hours and answers all questions thoroughly. Also Doug is at office hours and he is awesome. Study from the TA slides and the class presentations for the quizzes. Ask for help on your papers, the TAs and Gwen are extremely helpful and give good advice and direction on the papers. The most important one is go to class. Gwen is an excellent lecturer and really teaches the material (she does not just read off the slides). Her slides are useful for studying and writing the papers.

be aware of all assignments/quizz due dates

I would advise students who take ESP160 next year to make sure that they attend all lectures and discussions. While it may be difficult to wake up early for class, this is a great opportunity to gain easy points. There's also random attendance checks that usually happen on days when attendance is low- so don't let your grade be affected by not showing up. Also make sure to do the readings and review the lecture material; the quizzes are slightly difficult so you will have to prepare for them if you want to do good. The TA's (Erica & Megan) are both extremely helpful when it comes to clarifying material covered in class and when it comes to the two papers. You'll do better on your papers and in the class in general if you make time to talk to them in advance. Overall, while this class has several components, it isn't difficult to do well.

Make sure to attend every class and discussion, easy points!

I would recommend that you do all of the readings on time and take notes on them. It really helps for the quizzes that have a lot of questiosn related to the readings. Also showing up to lecture and actually taking handwritten notes. In terms of the paper, going into office hours is really helpful, especially for figuring out what your research design is if you're stuck. Writing a partial draft for the paper workshop is helpful too because then you can get real feedback on a part of your paper.

Definitely go to office hour no matter it's Magen or Eric or Prof. Arnold. I blowed my first paper because I did not go to office hour to ask questions. But I went to office hours for the second paper and I think I did well.

Definitely buy the book. It is really helpful to have when writing your essays. Also, there are so many points in this class it is really easy to do well just by showing up to class and discussion!

Get started early on readings and actually thoroughly read them (annotate, summarize, discuss with a friend). They really help explain the theories, and the quizzes included specific questions from the readings. I also would say get started on your paper proposals/ drafts early, and go into office hours for feedback. A few times I thought my proposal and understanding of the theory was really sound, only to have it critiqued in a paper workshop a week before it was due and realize I didn't analyze it well.

Read the articles and highlight key points that you believe contributed to changes and shifts in the policy. I found the review slides to be very helpful from discussion and gave me a clear idea and summary of the theory. Review those before the quiz. Gwen's examples help give an idea of how the theory can be applied so if you are struggling with understanding it, look back on those. The TAs and professor want to help you succeed so go to office hours to have them look over your hypothesis, research design and test

for your papers; it will strengthen you paper and give you a better understanding of how to structure your papers. If you can not make office hours, e-mail them and they will make time to help you.

Go to every class; the one you miss is likely the one that has an attendance check. Talk to your TAs; they are really nice. Do the papers on time -- 50% is a lot. Don't forget to study and have fun!

My advice would be to choose a policy dilemma (paper topic) that you are actually strongly interested in. This will make writing the papers more interesting and potentially a jumping-off point for expanding your interest in a given area.

There are lots of opportunity to gain grades, so make sure to attend lectures and discussion sections to get attendance grade. There is neither midterm nor final, just 5 quizzes on each policy framework. Discussion slides are perfect review material for those quizzes.

Definitely attend lecture as Gwen really explains in detail each of the policy frameworks. Even though the readings are long, make sure you definitely read them because they will be on the quizzes. Get a head start on the paper so you can make sure the TAs/Gwen can take a look at them to give you advice as well.

Go to office hours ON THE DAY your paper is due. I went in with half my paper done, needing help with the research design portion, and the TA, Megan, didn't judge me. There was no line - it was empty, so I got full one-on-one time with her. She helped me a lot and I ended up getting a good grade on the paper. Also, just show up to class. Those are participation points you're missing out on! take notes during classes and read assigned articles

The readings are the most important (you should read a little every day because it is a lot to take in), but you should also go to class AND discussion.

Stay on top of the readings. They add a lot of information and application of the theories taught in the course. Go to office hours for the papers. The TAs do an excellent job of helping you formulate your paper. Lastly, be engaged in class. Don't be afraid to answer questions that are asked during lecture. It will help the lecture move on and help solidify the material in your mind.

Advice: You probably should do the readings every week but that can be a lot sometimes. So I recommend studying the slides for the quiz, discussion section for the articles you need for the quiz is always before, so you can study them and you should be fine. For the papers, follow the rubric to a T. The writing doesn't actually have to be excellent as long as you have all the elements outlined in the grading rubric for the paper you shouldn't get less than a B. Other Comments: Go to lecture, participation points are easy so get them! Also the no final thing is amazing and a huge plus about this class I would really recommend them to go to the office hour to discuss the paper with the TAs because it really helps a lot. I got a pretty good score on the paper and that is because I went to the office hour to discuss the paper with the TAs. Also, I would recommend them to pay attention in class and they would do just fine on the quizzes.

For one, make sure you go actually read and TRY to comprehend the readings given. They are a critical point for your quizzes and those points stack up in terms for your grade. 150 points is a significant margin, and just 10 points off is a difference between an A and a B. Secondly if you suck at writing, make sure you go attend OH or schedule a meeting and get advice for your essay. This class doesn't have a midterm or a final, so in place of that these essays are worth a large portion of your grades. If you think it's shameful to ever need help here, you're completely wrong. You are not the only one who may need help gathering ideas and ensuring what you write sounds great. Students who have English as as a Second Language (ESL) are at a complete disadvantage, and students who simply have trouble with writing are also at a distinct disadvantage to their peers. Get help if you need. There is no shame in wanting a good grade.

Pay attention to Professor Gwen's lectures and those help you understand the theories more efficiently with the basic understanding of all the readings. Gwen's lectures make abstract theories clearer! Carefully read all the case studies, and those will help you understand the theory and prepare for the quizs! Absolutely go to office-hours for papers, Professor Gwen and TAs will give you lots of help!

Go to every lecture! Gwen's descriptions of the concepts really helps you in discussions and on the quizzes! Do all the reading!

For this course, I would highly recommend going to lectures rather that just studying the slides posted on Canvas. While these slides are very helpful, Qwen provides many specific examples and analogies that make each policy theory easier to understand, and easier to retain. In addition, I would highly recommend that you go to all of the discussions and pay good attention to group presentations on the assigned readings for each week. All of the quizzes in this course will have questions related to the assigned readings on them, and the group presentations are a great way to learn more about the readings. Lastly, I recommend going to office hours to get advice on your research paper assignments. I did not do this for the first paper, and when I went to office hours to ask questions for my second paper Erica was extremely helpful and helped me figure out exactly what I wanted to argue in my paper.

Stay on top of your work, do the readings, go to office hours. Your grade in this class will be a fair reflection on the amount of work you put in. The TA's and Gwen are great resources so take advantage of them, and this class will be more than a just requirement for you, but something you can apply to your career. Best of luck!

This class is really easy to do well in if you try! The quizzes are hard, but i've gotten good grades on all but one. The text book, in my opinion, is NOT necessary. I never opened it and held an A in the class just make sure to PAY ATTENTION in class and READ the assigned articles. The essays are relatively easy but ask questions if you are confused it will only help your grade. Gwen and her TAs are amazing, enjoy the class!

Attend all lectures as well as discussion sections. Start working on the paper early.

It is extremely important to attend lecture (there are attendance checks and in-class activities), as well as attend discussion sections. Go to office hours of Professor Arnold because she is extremely friendly and willing to help explain some of the challenging concepts. Furthermore, start early on the papers! Make your outline extremely detailed so that you can get good feedback on it.

This class is one you definitely have to keep up with. The weekly quizzes are so much better than a midterm but it also requires you stay on your toes with readings and going to lecture. Don't miss out on attendance/discussion points, you will be grateful for them later. As for papers I have two words: office hours (also get there early or make an appointment because these poor TAs get swamped). Review discussion slides to prepare for the quizzes. Be weary of the group presentation, you can't choose your partners but you can make your part awesome and see the TA if you have problems (they will help you!) All in all, it's a great course and extremely fair. Gwen is a UC Davis gem and the entire team is super helpful, use them!

Read those articles, yo. They're like half the quiz grades. Also, I know waiting the day before an essay is due is cool, but those things are thick and you'll be stressed 100%. Go to class. If there isn't an attendance check, there's a quiz. If there isn't a quiz, there's an in class assignment. Gwen is crafty. Read the textbook before quizzes to help with understanding the theory. The book explains them all very well and quizzes are largely weighted in your final grade. Participation is also weighted heavily so go to discussion and even lecture so you can get participation credit.

Utilize your TA! They will benefit you more than you can even imagine! I don't think I could have gotten good grades on my papers without them. They are really open to working with you and helping you out. Go to office hours and you definitely won't regret it!

Start your papers early and go to office hours

1. pay great attention to weekly readings. Summarize key actors and events involved in these stories in your notes. Sometimes you may feel busy and cannot concentrate to read the articles. In this case, quick scan the articles and get some impressions on it. You may recall them back during the quiz! 2. work hard on your paper. Go to office hours for advice. Since it is your first time to write these kind of papers, you may need to some guidance from instructors. The papers are not that hard to write, but without guidance, you may lose key points that graders may look for. 3. there are some real life examples and stories on the

slides, and Dr. Arnold may introduce some new stories from recent news during lectures. Treat such stories as anecdotes as in popular TV shows. Things related to academics seem always boring, but the stories themselves are not always dull. I promise. Enjoy your lectures! 4. the amount of points for each attendance is equivalent to a question on a quiz, so attendance points are really easy-points that you can earn!

For this class as well as just about any class, the basics are essential. For example having a schedule for the week to make time for the weekly readings worked really well for me. I was well informed to go into the discussion sections and explore the content by asking questions making comments. It worked pretty well until I got busy midway through missed some readings. Obviously that made it harder to follow along but because of how difficult the papers not having the reinforcing review in section made the quiz so much harder. So time management is nothing new but one thing I got by without reading was the text book chapters going over each theory. The lectures summarize everything that's important to know for the quizzes (except for the case application readings which are also in the quizzes) so I found that unless I needed to know more about the theory (like for the either of the essays in the class) I didn't need to take the time weekly to read the book. It can also be accessed online or in the course reserves so... The essays too require time management, I know from experience that they are hard to write within the last few hours in which they are due. However whether you share my habitats or not, having a well developed outline is extremely valuable for the writing process. That covers almost everything, not a lot that hasn't been said before but hopefully some of it was helpful.

For the papers, absolutely GO TO OFFICE HOURS! The TAs are extremely helpful and approachable. As for studying, I found it very helpful to not only go over the professor's slides but the slides from discussion the TA and group members provide. All and all have fun and go to Professor Arnold's office.... she has the cutest dog named Doug who love pets.

ESP 160 can seem like a little overwhelming at first because there are many assignments done throughout the quarter. A lot of them are easy ways to earn points, however. Be sure to come to lecture, as there are random attendance checks and in-class activities with points attached. Do your best to complete the readings, as you will need them for discussion section and quizzes. The five quizzes given throughout the quarter were less stressful to me than a midterm would have been, but do study for them as the questions can be difficult. Gwen and the TA's were amazing instructors. They are all friendly, approachable, and want you to succeed. I would suggest showing up to office hours early or making an appointment if you would like to meet with one of them, as they get pretty busy helping students. For the papers, make sure to pick a topic that you find interesting. You have to stick with with the topic for both papers.

Get started on your papers early! Procrastination is not your friend.

Focus in discussion each week. It is incredibly helpful when the TAs go over the week's analysis topic and when student groups present the article readings for the week. It is essentially all the content of the quiz, so pay attention to reduce study time/stress later. Also, go to the TA and Dr. Arnold's office hours when brainstorming for your essay! It can be a little confusing at first, but they really help narrow the scope of your essay into something that is doable.

Read the course reading carefully, especially on the application of real event part, the quiz will focus on that. Go to class is important, understanding the powerpoint content is important and good enough to do the quiz. Go to the office hour, as least once before you hand in the paper. TAs are really helpful and give you a lot of advice after go through your paper. They can find many errors that you do not realize before. :

Professor Arnold has designed this class to provide many opportunities to earn points and truly wants every student to succeed. Go to lectures, and focus on listening and understanding the theories and examples rather than writing down as many notes as possible. Ask questions, and email Gwen or the TAs if you need further clarification. The TAs are an invaluable resource in this class, so make sure you attend

discussion sections and go to their office hours. For the papers, definitely schedule an appointment to talk to a TA or Gwen to make sure your ideas are on the right track. Also, you definitely need the book. The textbook is a very helpful tool in better understand the theories, even just skimming through it to see it written in a different way than the lecture helps a lot. Attending lectures, EVERY lecture, is the way to succeed in this class. In discussion, when students and the TA are giving a review of the materials, actually taking notes and paying attention helps A LOT and often times the TA will give little hints as to which parts of the theory are important to know for the quizzes. Take the outlines for the papers seriously and use the discussion section paper workshops to your advantage, the TAs give valuable insight to help you better organize your paper.

Make sure you read the articles closely. Review them before the quizzes, along with the TA's slides they post to Canvas. Attending discussion is very helpful and easy points. There are a lot of points to earn in this class, a lot of which you can earn by attending lecture and discussion. So go! Also, do not wait too long to start your paper. Use the paper outline assignment and discussion workshop to create a solid outline that you can review with your classmates and TAs. Finally, go to office hours for your paper! But make sure you schedule a time early in advance, as they book up fast.

Keep up with the assigned readings to get the most out of discussion sections. It will be crucial to understanding these policy theories and make your papers that much easier to write. And of course, attend lecture.

The assigned readings in the text book do an excellent job of describing the policies you will be studying. I would highly suggests completing these assigned readings prior to the lecture covering them. Also, attend the lectures. The professor provides valuable examples that help to understand the policy frameworks. Finally, give yourself ample time to write your papers. They can be stressful to complete if you put them off till the last minute. Enjoy the quarter.

For the quizzes, readings are so essential as they carry a lot of weight in the MC section. If you have a great handle on the main concepts and key details of each theory, and do the readings, you will be well prepared. The first paper can be intimidating but if you go to the TAs for help, you can get through it. Professor Arnold and the TAs do an excellent job of being available to you so that you can thrive in the class. The class is set up with many changes for you to succeed and earn many points, so don't be let down if you mess up one time. All in all, enjoy the class as it is integral to understanding environmental policy.

Read all assigned readings. Discussion session is really useful because TA will review course materials and students will present useful information in readings, so make sure to attend every session to improve your quiz scores. Go to office hours because TA and professor's advice on your papers is helpful. + GO TO OFFICE HOURS for your papers — the TA's (and Dr. Arnold) are very helpful and will read parts of your paper to tell you if you're on the right track. I would recommend even separately making an appointment with a TA early on before the paper is due (soon before your outline is due) to get one-onone help since office hours can get busy. + GO TO CLASS — there are in-class activities that you want to be there for, and to also not let your groupmates down by not being there to help with the activity writing. Also just go to learn the content the first time and not the night before a guiz ?? + Dr. Arnold might omit this one buuut the textbook is honestly not the best use of your time to read and definitely not to buy; this is all relative based on what you as a student excel most with regarding resources, but I would personally focus on lecture slides in lecture, go to class, and pay attention to the TA's review slides at the start of discussion section. This is where your attention is best put to use for material engagement. + STUDY FOR QUIZZES — study for the guizzes at least a few days before the guiz, not the night before! If you're a crammer, I would recommend not doing that for this class, since policy theory is not something you can just memorize, it's a much for qualitative and descriptive analysis to wrap your head around. + READ THE ASSIGNED READINGS — you'll be a lot more prepared for discussion section so you're not awkwardly coming up with an answer with your small group during discussion question breaks during group presentations AND you can answer quiz questions about readings with confidence!:) + Lastly, pick

a paper topic that you are actually passionate about!! I.e. don't pick a random topic on the example topics sheet out of convenience, actually think about what you want to research! It'll make your paper-writing much more enjoyable and interesting for you and you'll look at the issue with a newfound sense of understanding that you might even apply to your career if you choose to pursue something along the lines of your topic.

Read the text book and review TA's slide. OH is very helpful! Gwen is very nice!

Definitely do the readings, and mark in your calendar when the discussion comments are due. Also, if you get a chance, do your group presentation in like week 1 or 2 just to get it out of the way. It will get in the way of papers if you don't.

- go see TA's or Gwen for office hours before quizzes! Quizzes are worth a good portion of your grades -- so don't slack off and stay up to date on the material. -set a weekly reminder to make sure that you submit your discussion questions. don't miss out on these easy points. -see the TA's about your papers -- you will be so much better off asking them feedback on your paper then waiting last minute to figure out what kind of research you will be writing about!

Listen carefully instructor's lectures, she puts a lot of afford in them. Go to office hours, and paper will look a lot easier thereafter.

Reading the textbook will help you with the essays and start to understand the theories before lecture. Make sure to read the articles for the week before lecture. The first quiz has questions on articles for the week before and the week of the quiz! The first ten minutes of class are a good review of last lecture. Study from the TAs discussion slides and don't try to memorize every fact about the articles, the quizzes aren't only about the article.

Make sure to show up to class and discussion, as by just doing that you get so many points! Also set a reminder on your phone to turn in the discussion questions for section because I forgot a few times. If you put effort into the class you will do well, there are no tricks or unfair grading, the effort you put in will correlate with what grade you get in the class.

Earn easy points from just showing up to lecture and discussion, small points easily cumulate. You won't fail the class if you don't have the book, but it helps if you're struggling to understand a theory. Office hours are great; the TAs and Gwen do a great job in helping you learn if you're struggling. Papers are worth a lot of points, try to get as much feedback as you can. Quizzes aren't too difficult, try to understand the overall idea of the specific theories and use the presentations from the presenting groups as reference for the articles, since those are also on the quizzes. The class is not too stressful, just make sure to not fall behind in the material.

Go to the class so that you don't need to spend so much time reviewing for the quiz and get good scores. Go to office hours since they are really helpful!!

Go to lecture for attendance points. You don't really need the textbook because the powerpoints and lectures are really helpful. For quizzes, use the powerpoints from discussion sections to study. The example cases and how they apply to a theory at the end of each powerpoint is also really helpful when writing your essay.

Make sure to read all of the required articles. Even though you may think you can get by with just the presentations, it's much easier and informative to go through them yourself.

Attend all office hour sessions and utilize the essay workshop sessions!

Honestly, I did decent without having ever opened the book. I would say go to class and listen to lecture and maybe skim the readings assigned on Canvas and you'll do fine. Also, don't procrastinate working on the paper and run your ideas for the paper by the TAs before submitting it to really make sure you're answering all the key elements they'll be grading for.

I would advice students to not procrastinate and show up to class. Though there are many materials to cover and it is easy to fall back in class because of the amount of points that are offered, it is easy to lose points if you become lazy and slack off in class. Plan and study everything before at least three or two weeks prior to the due date. You won't regret it