Suggestions from Previous Students in Online Statistics 371

After my online Stat 371 class in Fall 2013 had ended, I emailed the following message to my class:

- One of you made a suggestion via email and I want to pursue it. As you may know, I will be teaching the online 371 again this semester, Spring 2014. Here is what I want from you:

  Do you have any suggestions for the students on how to be successful in 371 with this new medium? I will make a list of your responses and post them for the new students.

Below are the responses I received from two students.

1. It helped me to read the assigned chapter all at once and dive right into the practice problems and homework after, so everything stayed fresh in my mind. If I could do the semester again I would have scheduled time into my week to read each chapter again before taking the quiz, because as I reread a lot of chapters before the final, I discovered that a lot of the concepts I thought were challenging really just hadn’t sunk in after reading about them only once. Going through the chapters twice was really helpful.

   I had a lot of trouble with some of the quiz questions, but after I went through them with the answers, they were not nearly as complicated as I had thought. I would tell students to work quickly on the quizzes, but use the remainder of the time to recheck calculations and look for ways the questions are tricky.

   I would tell students to visit you or email you, because contrary to what I expected from a professor teaching a blended course, your responses were thorough and clear and were sent very quickly.

   Lastly, I would use the first few weeks of the semester to play around with how I want to schedule stats into my week but after that, I would create a study schedule and stick with it as much as possible. It wasn’t helpful for me to read chapters much ahead of time, because I ended up forgetting the material before I had taken the quizzes. There’s no need to rush through the course if you’re not being thorough in your learning.

2. (a) Keep up with the practice problems/homework.

   (b) Completing/Understanding the practice problems/homework is more important than reading thoroughly. Learn when to skim the readings, but also when to focus on them (e.g., examples).