

Study all semester for success

Humor by Lauri Hopple

FINALS approach. The campus is in turmoil, but it is silent turmoil. Silent because students everywhere are honing their study skills.

How do they do it? I needed to know for my own personal academic benefit, thinking that other students' insights into the studying process might help improve my own. I made a few calls.

"Hello, Ursula Walsh, famed football tutor? What study tips do you give the team for finals?"

Walsh didn't turn out to be too encouraging.

"If they haven't studied all semester, they're in trouble," she said.

Walsh did give me the names of two players who she sees as possible Academic All-Americans: Scott Strasburger and Rob Stuckey.

Rob Stuckey? Rob Stuckey? Rats! I had missed my big chance to milk Stuckey just minutes ago, in my English class. We were watching Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" on the audio-visual machine. Needless to say, it would have been the prime to find out Stuckey's study habits. (Sorry, Mr. Roberts. I do you double injustice.)

I was dazed by the news Walsh had given me. Here I had sat all semester next to a potential Academic All-American and I didn't even know it. What a waste.

Now, just 20 minutes after class, he was lost to me forever. I called his home in a futile attempt to reach him, but his roommate told me he wouldn't be home til dinnertime.

That was my closest brush to grasping the holy

study grail. I continued my quest, and it continued to be a silent one.

I called Scott Strasburger. No answer. I called Ursula Walsh back to ask where he might be. What? In class all morning? For what? He should be studying!

I was desperate now. I skipped two classes. I forsook my regular reading time. All in hopes of finding better ways to study for finals.

I climbed my way up the intellectual ladder and called ASUN President Matt Wallace. Unfortunately, it was already Friday afternoon and he was out.

"Oh, he went home to start getting ready for finals?" I asked the person on the other end of the line.

"Uh, no, I think he mentioned something about a Daily Nebraskan-ASUN FAC."

I was shattered. What an image-blower.

The silence of those who could not answer my question was beginning to get to me. I began going a little batty. I contemplated calling the pope, but realized I couldn't afford the phone bill if he didn't accept the collect charges.

Then I called — this really shows my extreme dedication to my quest — the Invisible Man himself, UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale. Perhaps he, brimming with truth and knowledge, would be able to tell me what I needed to know about studying.

"What? Finals? You should be getting ready to go to the Orange Bowl!" he cried with disdain.

I slumped, physically and mentally. I no longer had the desire to improve my study habits. I decided there's no place like home — I'd go back to my original theory of reliance on what I'd actually learned in class. I guess the best way to study for finals is obvious: keep plugging all semester long.

By Lauri Hopple

Students are like sausage casings, said Debbie Cutcliff, as they try to stuff all the semester's materials into themselves in a short time.

Studying for finals requires a number of things, among them good time management, the coordinator of the center said.

"The irony is that people who cram don't know how to do this," Cutcliff said. "If they knew how to manage their time, they wouldn't be in this crunch."

Cutcliff said cramming is "a ridiculous and useless pastime."

Many students find it difficult to avoid cramming for tests, Cutcliff said, because they don't have the discipline to study what regular class times give them.

So what to do if not to cram?

Cutcliff encourages students to view finals as a last chance to perform well. She said this is a good motivator.

Weighing your position in the class also is a good preparatory step, she said.

While actually studying, make sure that you are where you can study with no distractions. Also, she said, be considerate of other people who still have tests to take.

When people start to leave, Cutcliff said, they are sometimes noisy and obnoxious.

"Remember that this is some people's last effort," she said.

Cutcliff said to remember the types of tests each professor of each class gave all semester, and to prepare for a similar final test.

If the test is comprehensive, she said, look over all the material but concentrate on the high points. If the test is not comprehensive, prepare the same way as for a unit test.

Another important preparation is to analyze how the material will be used on the test, judging from the professor's style," she said.

Finals, Cutcliff said, are a thought-provoking time that allows students to think about what they did over the semester and how to improve.

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Cheaters . . .

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see, he said," but I don't want to spend my time drumming students out of school."

Simpson-Kirkland said the faculty often finds itself in a difficult position.

"People argue that these (students) are adults and we (professors) shouldn't have to be policemen," she said. "It (reporting cheating) is a faculty and student responsibility. Sometimes, students see what faculty members can't. If you see it, you should report it."

Dates to Remember

The following are important second semester dates for students to remember:

Jan. 11, 12, 13 (Wed., Thu., Fri. only) General registration. New registrations will not be accepted after Jan. 13 including registration for thesis or dissertation credits.

Jan. 16 (Monday) Second Semester classes begin. Late fees for all students with incomplete registrations including thesis or dissertation credits.

Jan. 17 (Tuesday)	First day of Drop/Add
Jan. 23 (Monday)	Final day on which adds are accepted.
Feb. 10 (Friday)	Final day to apply for a degree in May 1984.
March 9 (Friday)	Last day to file drops in the Office of Registration to remove course from student's record.
March 9 (Friday)	Last day to change course registration to or from Pass/No Pass.
March 12-April 13	Students dropping courses during this period need instructor's approval.
March 19 (Monday)	Early registration for Fall 1984-85 and Summer 1984 begins.
March 25-April 1 (Sunday through Sunday)	Spring vacation



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