

**Dr. Noble's Study Method  
for MA104 Term End Exam  
Spring, 2006**

My personal method of studying is usually a “coarse to fine to coarse” approach. Here's the method I have used:

1. Coarse

- (a) Look through the Block Objectives and mark them as  $\times$  (Don't Know),  $\bullet$  (Not Sure),  $\checkmark$  (Know).
- (b) Go through the Quizzes and WPRs and compare the problems you missed with the Block Objectives and mark those objectives as MSN (More Study Needed).
- (c) Make a list of topics you know you need more work on.

2. Fine

- (a) For each Block Objective not marked with a  $\checkmark$ , go to the actual lessons that are associated with those objectives and mark each individual Lesson Objective as  $\checkmark$ ,  $\bullet$ , or  $\times$ . Do the same thing with the topics on your list from 1c above.
- (b) Spend time working through the DO Problems or examples in the textbook that correspond to the Not Sure and Don't Know lesson objectives. Also look for Problem Set or Additional Practice problems that correspond to those objectives and re-work them.

3. Coarse

- (a) Re-work the WPRs, Quizzes, Problem Sets, and Additional Practice Problems. See how far you can get on each problem before you have to look back at your notes.
- (b) If you have to look back at your notes, or if you're not confident that you did the problem right, go back into Fine Mode and study that particular piece again. The goal in this step is to change every  $\bullet$ , MSN, and  $\times$  to a  $\checkmark$ . This will probably take some time.
- (c) Try to make a list (in your head or on paper) of all that you have learned from this course. Where are the fuzzy places? What's missing when you compare it to the lesson objectives? If you're not running out of study time, you can always work on those fuzzy places again in Fine Mode.

I usually try to complete the first Coarse scheme at least 4-5 days before the exam. Then I spend the next 2-3 days working through the Fine study scheme. The day or two before the exam I am in the final Coarse stage. The night before the exam I do a read through of the lesson objectives and think about the types of problems associated with each and how to solve them. I might take one more look at any problems or concepts that were especially difficult for me while I was studying. *The rest of my evening is spent visualizing myself relaxed on test day and writing complete, clear, and correct answers for every problem on the TEE.* (Get your game face on.) Then I go to sleep ready to wake up and do math.