

Advice to Future Students (from Professor Pablo's former students)

Each semester I ask my students to complete an anonymous survey at the end of the semester. Here are their unedited responses to the question, "What advice would you give to future students?"

1. The advice I would give to future students is to stay up to speed with all the reading and truly use all the opportunities we're given to evaluate ourselves and the way we communicate, listen, and perceive others.
2. Come into the class with an open mind and willingness to go out of your comfort zone. It'll be helpful in the long run.
3. Participate, state your opinion on something so that maybe someone can point out something you never considered and you can learn from that.
4. You get as much out of this class as you put in. If you keep up with the readings and assignments you will enjoy the class a lot more. ALWAYS PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS----> it keeps the class a lot more interesting.
5. Really do the critical exercises—they help realize the type of person you are and what kind of relationships you hold and how to improve them.
6. Stick with the course and don't be discouraged. We are all here to learn. Not all of us know everything and not all of us are confident in what we are saying.
7. Have a good time when in class, and when doing exercises. If you think of the work as just "school work" the class isn't as fun. Pablo's class is like Sesame Street for adults. You will have fun in class, and still learn something. And Pablo's personality can be related to Cookie Monster. He's gotta have those cookies!
8. Be open to anything. This class is FUN and a lot can be learned from it but only if you let yourself enjoy the process.
9. Take an English class before the class to learn to write a proper college paper or get help in writing a proper college paper.
10. Always read the directions carefully. If you follow them meticulously you'll do great!
11. Do the work. Take good notes during the lecture. Participate in class. Plan ahead, and have fun!
12. Show up to class. You will regret it if you don't.
13. Pablo is tough and has high standards but they are attainable.
14. Learn the material; take the time to read to understand, not read to memorize for a test.
15. Keep up with the readings and assignments. Also, try to find how the concepts apply in your life.
16. Read the textbook. This was the first textbook I have read from start to finish and I felt it helped me to not only understand the concepts better but also opened my eyes to interpersonal communication in my every day life.
17. This class made me look my life and the people in it in a whole new light, so make sure to do the assignments and take them seriously! :)
18. If you're shy, it's okay because the other 29 students are shy as well.
19. LISTEN in class. What you learn in this course is very valuable and important to every kind of person out there.
20. Manage your time early in the semester so you don't go nuts at the end, have fun, and COMMUNICATE with Pablo!!!
21. Be honest and straight up with Pablo. If you tell him how it is, he will do his best to give you the benefit of the doubt.

22. My advice for the future class is that even when you hate an assignment, always think that it has a purpose, that it is designed to teach us something, and if you don't see it now you will see it later.
23. Just try to have fun and enjoy the class.
24. Take what you have learned and apply it today! Those you love will benefit.
25. My only advice to future student is to get working early on critical exercises. They require the most thought and detail of any of the assignments. By getting a head start you will be able to ensure a good grade on the papers.
26. Enjoy the class and really get all you can out of this class it has a lot to offer and can really give you stronger life skills to live by.
27. Always read the big assignment criteria ahead of time so you can keep it in mind during conversations you may be able to use for them, instead of just trying to remember how the conversation or conflict went.
28. On papers, thoroughly explain your opinion or thoughts; it will lead to full points if he can completely understand you.
29. The more open you can be with your classmates the more you will get out of this class. Don't worry what others will think, most likely you'll never see them again. Your openness may even help them in one way or other. Take what you have learned and apply it today! Those you love will benefit.
30. To read the material and come prepared to discuss and engage in conversation.
31. Read the chapters and you will do fine!
32. pay attention and read the chapters
33. To do all the assignments because they are more fun then challenging and there is no point in not doing them
34. Follow instructions and prompts and you will do well.
35. It is easier than you think do not let nerves scare you from being the best presenter you can
36. Do the work assigned. Read the chapters, it is very helpful for tests.
37. Attendance is important and helps out the whole class!
38. Read the book!
39. take this course. you see the world different.
40. Learn to write well.
41. Have an open mind to identify when oneself or others are falling short of effective communication, because it is key in every day life with every person we come accross.
42. Do the reading for all the chapters and also take the time to actually study! :)
43. Be present in class. Get involved in the discussions because it makes it more interesting for not only you but your fellow classmates.
44. Participate in class, listen to the professors lectures, and read the material. Its actually interesting and valuable stuff.
45. read thechapter before listending to the presentations, it will help you to really understand.
46. Take advantage of the extra credit and don't procrastinate on the critical exercises.
47. Work hard and put effort into this class because if you do, it will really pay off. I feel like I am actually getting what I'm paying for in this class since it has something to offer everyone. I think everyone should take this course, whether they need it or not.
48. The advice I would give is to keep up with all the assignment and to do them ahead of time, to better understand the assignment.

49. Make sure to read the book in order to understand concepts. Show up to class in order to know the concepts that are the main focus. Interact during the class in order to get the full benefit of attending class.
50. Advice I would give to future students would be to get a head start on the critical exercises by at least having an outline done a few days before the paper is due so that you don't feel overwhelmed when your writing it the night before. Or even better don't wait till the night before to write the paper! Also take advantage of the extra credit because not many teachers offer it and its never a bad idea to have some sort of buffer for your grade in case you don't do as well as you thought on the midterm, final, etc.
51. Read, listen, and try to participate to make it more enjoyable and easier to learn.
52. To really take in all the information and obtain to their everyday lives. Because it's really life changing and great practice for the exams.
53. I would recommend that you really put the effort and time into the critical exercises and media examples because they are really a good way to learn and apply the course material information to everyday situations. I would also say to not procrastinate on the critical exercise because the more time and detail you have to complete the assignments the more detailed and beneficial they will be to you.
54. This is an easy class as long as they take the time to listen and do the work. It is very helpful when dealing with people as well as understanding oneself, I think people will really enjoy this class and I think every person should be required to take this class, because its gives priceless knowledge about people life, and oneself.
55. Start critical exercises early and w a plan
56. READ CHAPTERS BEFORE CLASS! Make sure you read the upcoming chapter prior to sitting in class for the lecture part, otherwise you may find yourself a little lost.
57. Be honest in your analysis for your critical excercises since a indepth look at your conversation skills can be very helpful.
58. I would suggest doing the Media Example presentations immediately after you sign up for them. That way you get the reading done and you have more time to think and understand your concept. This will let you be more comfortable talking about it infront of class.
59. As long as you take good notes and pay attention in class, you should have no problems whatsoever in this course.
60. Be prepared to analyze and be open about yourself with the class/in assignments. Be prepared to speak and discuss during class discussions.
61. If you don't procrastinate with the weekly readings and assignments there is no reason why you would not successfully finish this class.
62. Rate My Professor has several comments about this class- some good; some saying that there was way too much work. Pablo is a very understanding teacher who has an obvious heart for what he teaches as well as his students. There is quite a bit of work, but when all is said and done, the amount learned and the ability to put it into practice, is well worth it.
63. For future students I would make sure to tell them to: do their work, read and participate. If you do the simplest things in this course you will succeed.
64. My advice would be to keep up with the readings in the text.
65. My advice is to go to every class and turn all assignments in time. Talk to the professor, he is an understanding person and will help you succeed if you do the work you are supposed to.

66. allow yourself to accept you are human and when you critically think of actions in your past humans are ugly and you may not like who you have been but Interpersonal Communication definitely gives you the tools to learn so much
67. Make sure to take notes, focus in class, and complete all of your writing assignments because they will help you with your communication skills in the future.
68. The more you contribute to the class conversations the more fun the class will be!
69. do not procrastinate!!! the earlier you get started on the critical exercise assignments the easier it is to understand and ask questions in time to get the good grade, also pay attention to the critical exercise instructions.
70. You will be amazed at just how much you KNEW about interpersonal communication, but actually didn't REALLY KNOW. Pablo will tell you, you'll need to build a filter in your head in order to not point out what you learn in CLASS at home with your partner or out to eat with friends/family. Focus your energy on those papers and don't be afraid to ASK questions aloud to the class, those two areas are where you'll take the most from what is taught.
71. I would advise future students to be open to sharing in class because discussing the concepts in reference to your own personal experiences is very helpful because you get to hear input from other students on how to deal with a situation which only benefits you. Being too shy to talk in class not only loses you participation points but it also hinders you from gaining the most out of the class. The biggest benefit from the class is the discussion because it is a communication class, open yourself up to the discussion and you will learn more about yourself and the content you are learning.
72. I would advise future students to be prepared to take a deep look at their inner selves during the course of the class.
73. Come to every class meeting. The examples that Pablo and other students during lecture are critical to understanding the material. It will benefit you tremendously.
74. Don't procrastinate.
75. My advice to future students would be just to read the assignments ahead of time. Like read the critical exercises several weeks before they are due so that you have time to have a conversation with someone so that it isn't so forced.
76. Take the critical exercises seriously and you will be surprised on what you might learn about yourself
77. never give up!