Advice for succeeding in MA 15300

1. Attend every class. Print out my lecture notes before attending class (available at http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~pdevlin/) and follow along with the examples I complete during class. Be sure to complete every example I solve in-class on your copy of the notes so you can use them at the end of class on the quiz. I plan to give open note quizzes, so having your notes completed will be very beneficial to doing well on the quizzes. After class, finish any examples I didn’t have time to cover in-class.

If something that is absolutely unavoidable comes up and you have to miss class, be sure to catch up on the material you missed. Visit LON-CAPA (loncana.purdue.edu) to review the content and videos for the lesson you missed, or take advantage of the BoilerCast of my in-class lecture (available in BlackBoard).

2. Make sure that you are able to solve EVERY homework problem on your own. If you receive help with any of the problems from a homework assignment, go back and re-work those problems on your own. Also, anytime you get partial credit on a homework problem, be sure to use the “New Randomization” button to attempt a new version of that problem.

3. Begin preparing for exams as soon as possible. Once again, make sure that you are able to solve ALL of the problems from my notes, homework assignments, quizzes, Exam Practice Problems, Practice Exams, etc., on your own. If you receive help on a particular problem, find a similar problem somewhere else and be sure you can solve it on your own; you will not be able to ask for help on an exam, so treat your exam preparation like an exam.

4. Don't wait until you do poorly on an exam to get help. Start going to SI sessions, office hours, the Math Help room, COSINE, WISP-WIEP, and other help resources right from the beginning of the semester.