My dearest statistic students:

You are saving what amounts to about five hours of time by not attending a lecture for this class per week. This means that you will need to make up this class-time on your own. This will primarily be done by "reading" the book and my notes.

You must remember to spend the time you would have spent listening to a lecture on learning the material.

Reading mathematics is nothing like reading literature, biology, or economics. There are a couple of primary differences. Mathematics is usually quite dense with information. You must always be on your toes while reading. The difference that tends to derail most people is that you'll need to actively participate in the worked examples. Problems of a type that you've never tried before usually have an example or two in the book. You can't just read them. You have to try to do them and follow along at the same time. I can't stress this enough. Normally we do them together in a classroom setting.

As you have no lecture portion for this class, I suggest that, while you read the book, you work each example you encounter with pencil and paper. If it isn't working for you, take a break and then try again. If you still can't get it, I need to know quickly.

A good student with a "normal" background will spend in excess of 16 hours a week on this class. You will need to be self-motivated to make this work for you. Don't waste your time–either do this class with 100% effort or save some time and money and get out now.

It is possible to achieve high marks in this class. It will just take real effort.

~Matt Haner