Suggestions

Taking the following suggestions will result in your doing better in this course. Moreover, a benefit you can get beyond credit, a better grade, and some knowledge of physics is a methodical, organized approach, which can be applied to any and all subject matter (story of my ability to write and organize that got me a few awards).

- Keep the unknown on the left side of the equation.
- Leave 1-inch margins on all four edges of the page.
- Draw large diagrams.
- Space work—don't squeeze work into a small space.
- Write formula, then substitute.
- Box answers after your work—not somewhere else.
- Don't do calculations in your head—write everything out.
- Expect the test to reflect what the teacher making up the test emphasized in class.
- Don't write down intermediate results and then re-key them into your calculator.
- Answers must have units.
- Do problems using methods shown in class—I'm looking more for your approach than for your numerical answers.

Additional Suggestions:

- For statics problems, write equations for rotational and translational equilibrium of a rigid body: $\sum F_x = 0$, $\sum F_y = 0$, and $\sum \tau_A = 0$, where A is *any* point.
- On free-body diagram label the point about which torques are taken.
- Don't contradict the chronological flow of the solution to a problem by inserting numerical information that was calculated later.
- When you do problems out of order, say where the missing solution is.
- There are no walls, ceilings, or other objects in a free-body diagram—only forces, construction lines, and dimensions.
- All forces must be placed where they are exerted, and their direction must be shown by means of arrows.

Don't limit your ability in this course and beyond by disregarding the above admonitions!