

To whom it may concern,

Congratulations. You've signed up for a beautiful adventure. You are about to, or already have, begun what will be some of the best weeks of your life. They will also feel like you're being slowly pushed to the edge, and if you do not want to experience the combined torture, confusion, and finally elation that comes from being enrolled in Nick's class, please stop reading this right now and transfer to a different class.

With that in mind, I will do my best to give you a short guide on how to do the best you can in Nick's class. You may already be thinking about a final project that you would like to attempt. Please consider that when choosing your final project you may want to keep it narrow in scope and consider quality over quantity. I made that mistake once, and you don't have to make your project crazy. In fact, you can't. You will not physically have time to overload it with features.

With regard to Nick, make sure that your homework and especially your final project is turned in on time. Deadlines are very important to him, no matter how fluid they may seem to you. He is an excellent teacher. When you are being given lectures, and he asks whether you understand concepts, if you have questions, definitely ask them, no matter how stupid they may seem.

One of the most important aspects of taking his class, is that you will be exposed to many new things, some of which may seem ridiculous. I would advise you to be very open to these things.

You may notice that the situations you are placed in become increasingly absurd compared to anything else you've done, and you'll wonder why you do it. I can assure you that if you push aside these doubts, you will end up with something you are very proud of. You'll make art. I'd also advise you to take full advantage of the incredible opportunities you are being offered at Stanford. At guest lectures you'll meet incredible people. Be sure to talk to them, and engage them with thoughtful questions. The more you put in, the more you get out. Most of all, make Nick proud. He's a person unlike any I've ever met, and I hope you have an incredible experience.

I wish you the best of luck,

Will Fehrstrom