

"That wasn't in our notes," or "We didn't do a homework problem like that!"

College exams are designed to test your critical thinking skills. They will often go beyond the scope of class notes and weekly assignments and ask you to apply what you know about a topic in a new and different situation. They require comprehensive understanding of course material.

- Students who do well process course material deeply and aim to thoroughly understand course concepts -- How do course concepts relate to or build on one another? How can I relate material to my experience and make it meaningful?
- Add an extra dimension of difficulty to existing assignments or problems (ie. Can you work the problem backwards or if given different info/variables? Etc...)
- Think about how you will be expected to use or apply what you are learning. Can you anticipate what some of the difficult or more challenging test questions might look like? Get together with classmates to analyze the more difficult problems on previous exams and to predict exam questions (be sure you can solve them too!)



- Be sure to practice as much as possible and be able to work familiar and/or easier problems quickly and efficiently; this will give you more time during the exam to work on unfamiliar and/or more challenging problems