How to Survive General Physics 1
Tips and tricks for physics bliss:

Physics is hard. It is a topic that is unfamiliar to many of us. It has its own language and thought process. Here are three techniques to practice in physics that will help you be successful. These techniques can be applied to other courses as well. Many of these techniques you have heard before, but they truly are essential to be successful.

1. **Prep-work**: Professors expect students to come to class with the chapters read, notes taken, and ready to discuss what we just learned in lecture format. At first, keeping up with the reading is easy, but sooner or later you run the risk of falling behind due to various reasons (extracurriculars, other classes, laziness, etc). You now go to class unprepared and completely lost what the professor is talking about. These techniques are setting you up for failure. For physics, the prep work you do before class is the most valuable learning utensil you could possibly imagine. Ideally, you should always first and foremost try to read the chapter of discussion before class. If you fall behind, flip through the chapter and read any diagrams, examples, or headlines. **To advance your “quick” research try googling or youtube-ing the topic headings.** This allows you to get tons of information within a matter of minutes. Now, you are ready to learn and listen to the professor all while understanding that “physics talk jargon” and it took less than 10 minutes.

2. **Homework**: No one likes homework. It is time consuming and is the most frustrating thing when you don’t know where to start the problem, but it doesn’t have to be that way. Instead, **save 20 minutes each night to go over your homework** problems and see if you have covered the questions in lecture yet. This way you will know how to solve the problem and it is fresh in your mind. This will take you only half the time rather than waiting to do it the night before it is due. This will also allow you to find time to get help on the question if needed, rather than guessing on the problem and running the risk of getting it incorrect.

3. **Studying**: You have already worked so hard up to this point by staying on top of prep work and homework questions. This should just be review and should only take a couple of hours before a test. Review all your notes and homework questions every weekend. Make sure you completely understand how to solve the questions and the reasons why you are applying the
formulas. The more you review, the better you will retain the information. If more practice is necessary, look at the examples in the book again. Rework and recalculate each problem from scratch and do not just scan them. This will help you solve the questions on the exam.

Things to think about:
I know you have several other courses with a heavy load. Remember:

1. **Manage your time:** Make a schedule from the moment you wake up to the moment you go to bed. You should know where and what you should be doing at every hour of the day. Make sure you leave an appropriate (1-2 hours) amount of time to relax, see friends and unwind from the day.

2. **Stay organized:** Have a calendar and write all due dates, once you’re done (could be three days in advance) highlight or cross it out. This helps you make sure you have not missed an assignment, quiz, or special meeting in any of your classes. Once you’re done with the month, everything should be highlighted or crossed off.

3. **Repetition:** Look over your notes and problems every chance to get. The more you see it, the better you will understand it.

4. **Stick to it:** Let’s be honest, sticking to the plan is the hardest part. But, **if you’re not willing to put in the time for practice, you are never going to be able to win the game.** It is something that needs to be practiced everyday, and soon it will become natural. Not sticking to the plan is a waste of time and effort, so stick to your schedule even when you do slip.

5. **Smile:** Having a positive attitude will help you accomplish all the necessary tasks without feeling like you’re slowly dying.

Try applying these techniques today before you regret it later. I hope these tips and tricks found you ease. You have a long semester ahead of you, but the success is worth it. Best of luck with this semester!!!