

What to do when you're struggling

Introduction to Deep Learning
11-785 / 685 / 485



Where to start?

All homeworks 1-4, each
with a part-1 and part 2

Bonus homeworks

Notebooks

Materials

Lectures by the Professor,
twice per week

Recitations by TAs, once per
week

Hackathons / Bootcamps by
TAs, every weekend

Videos

All put out before the
semester began

Meant to help you quickly
find information about
course-relevant topics

Referred to throughout the
HW write-ups

Recitation 0



“Take up an idea, devote yourself to it, struggle on in patience, and the sun will rise for you.”

—**SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**



01

OFFICE HOURS & PIAZZA

Meet in-person, meet on Zoom,
message online

02

STUDY GROUP & MENTOR

A semester-long setup for your
success

03

CMU's STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Peer Tutoring (1-on-1)
and Academic Coaching

04

PROFESSOR BHIKSHA RAJ

Prioritizes you

OFFICE HOURS & 01. PIAZZA

Meet in-person, meet on Zoom, message online

- Manigandan Ramadasan
- Olivier Kwizera
- Bradley Warren
- Pengyu Chang
- Felix Hirwa Nshuti
- Floride Tujisenge
- Massa Baali
- Mengchun Zhang
- Miya Sylvester
- Nayesha Gандotra
- Rutvik Joshi
- Ahmed Tahiru Issah
- delphine nyaboke
- Yuanyi Gao
- Euijin Hong
- Dhivya Sreedhar

WHOA!

You have over 25 different Teaching
Assistants to choose from!!

- Ron Sarma
- Akshara
- Yixiong Fang
- En Zheng
- Nadayanur Sathis Kanna
- Yabsera Yemanberhan
- Madhavi Gulavani
- Shravanth Srinivas
- Puru Samal
- Malihah Rahaman
- Khushee
- Mugur Preda
- Praneeth Chaitanya Jonnavithula
- Thomas Seleshi
- Anurag

OFFICE HOURS

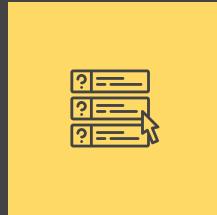
There are office hours every day, in Pittsburgh time and Kigali time.

- You'll come prepared
- You'll want a better answer
- And you'll likely feel rushed

TAs can help you the most when you've come prepared, but sometimes they are not able to solve your problem and may move onto the next student because your question(s) are taking up too much time.



PIAZZA VERSUS OFFICE HOURS



PIAZZA

You'll find hints/tips on solving homework there, and you'll also get to see whether other students had the same questions. TAs are supposed to respond really quickly on Piazza.



OFFICE HOURS

You can have a deeper conversation about your question and have more privacy. You can also get to know the different TAs personally, and befriend them, if you like.

STUDY GROUPS & MENTORS .02

A semester-long setup for your success

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR STUDY GROUP

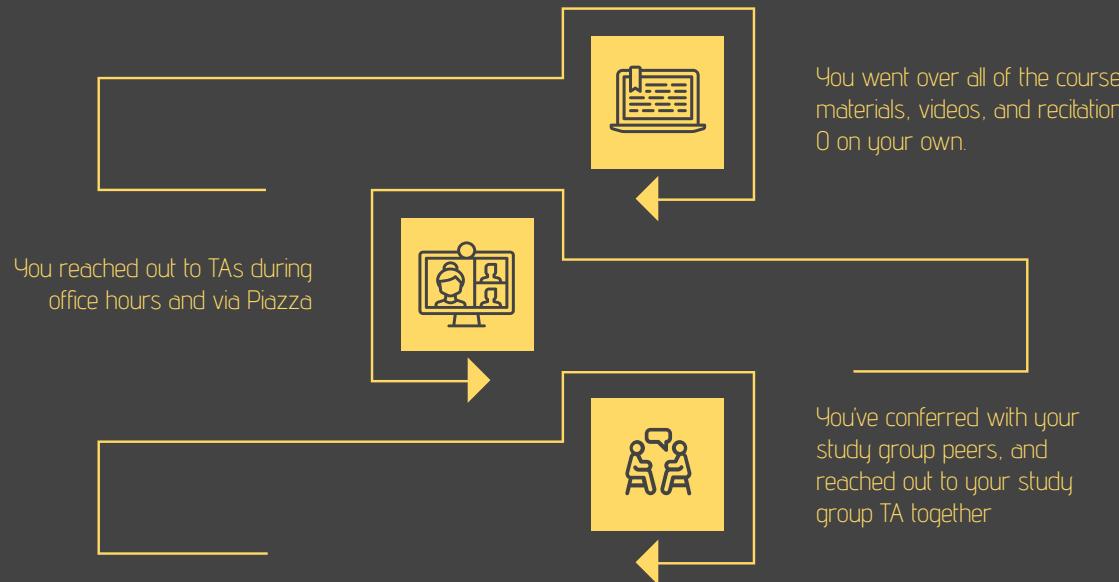


You are all allowed to work together to find solutions to your homeworks. You should have been assigned to a study group during the start of the semester. If you need a new study group, just message your TA mentor or approach another TA during office hours.

**YOUR STUDY
GROUP TA
MENTOR WENT
THROUGH THE
SAME
PROBLEMS**



SO FAR...



STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 03. CENTER

Do you need a personal tutor or an academic coach?

THE STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER IS LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT OF CYERT HALL (BEHIND WARNER)



TUTOR

You can request for a personal tutor, who will meet with you on a weekly basis to assist you with Intro to Deep Learning



ACADEMIC COACH

The SASC can pair you with an Academic Coach, who will help you organize your schedule and get you on track with all your classes



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THERAPIST/COUNSELOR

Counseling and Psychological Services (in Pittsburgh) and the Solid Minds Counselling Clinic (in Kigali) will support you when your stress becomes overwhelming

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU'VE GONE THROUGH ALL OF THESE RESOURCES?

You've been to office hours
and have looked on piazza
for similar questions

You tried your best to go through the course
material, videos, and preparatory recitations



You reached out to your
study group, as well as your
study mentor, to try getting
in-depth help from someone
who knows you better

You tried to find a tutor and/or a coach at the
student academic success center

PROFESSOR BHIKSHA RAJ .04

Prof wants you to learn,
and he is happy to help

HELP US HELP YOU!

When you share your struggles with us, we are better able to understand your situation and assess what is the best way to help you



RUNNING LOW ON STAMINA...



ENERGY DURING WEEK 1

Feeling stressed is ok,
you're in a tough school



ENERGY DURING WEEK 3

This course is really
demanding, and it gets
harder every week



ENERGY DURING WEEK 5

Your personal health is
more important than
anything else



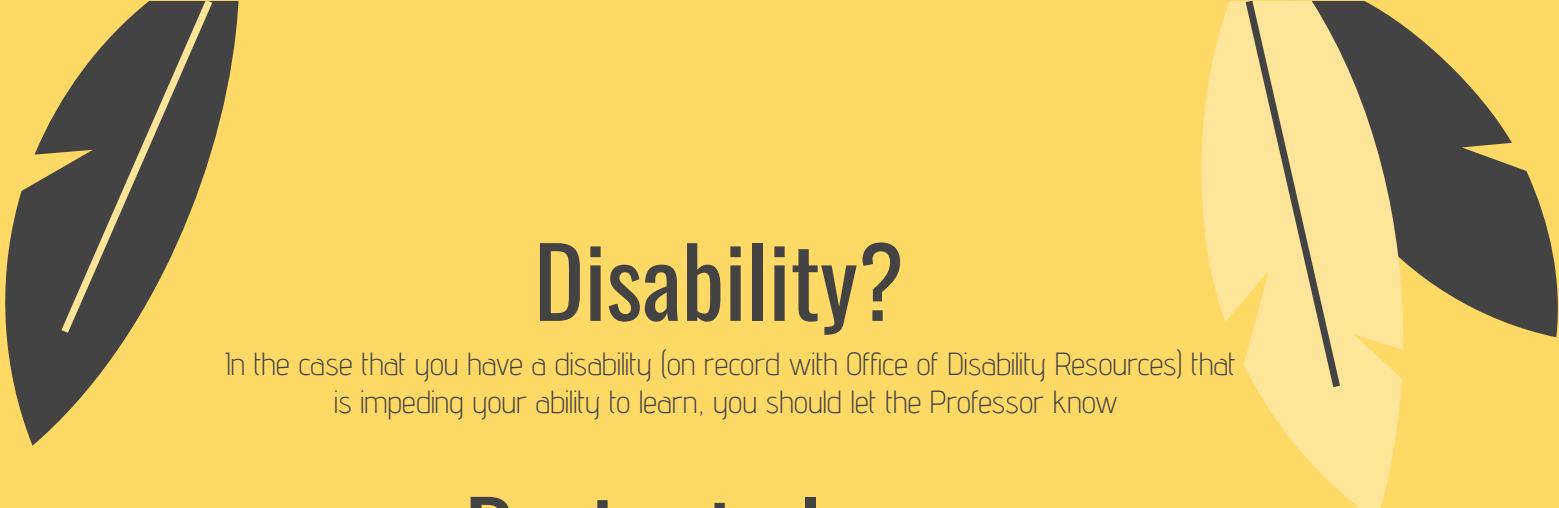
ENERGY DURING WEEK 7

Learning is an ongoing
process, even after the
semester ends

You're not the only one

Every semester, this course encounters students who are absolutely drowning in work, facing personal health issues, running into logistics problems, and who are unsure where to turn.





Disability?

In the case that you have a disability (on record with Office of Disability Resources) that is impeding your ability to learn, you should let the Professor know

Desire to learn

You should be enthusiastic about learning the material, because the Prof is working hard to teach, too!

Forthright about personal situation

We wonder what happened to students who fail, because we could have helped them pass if they had only reached out to tell us about what's happening in their life

Let's review what to do when you're struggling



00

Go through all of the course material, even if you don't understand it all.



01

Go to the daily office hours, check piazza for similar questions, and ask a question on piazza



02

Work together with your study group, so that everyone has a better chance at succeeding! As a group, you can approach your mentor for more advice



03

The Student Academic Success Center can provide you with a Tutor and/or an Academic Coach



04

The Professor cares about you and your learning

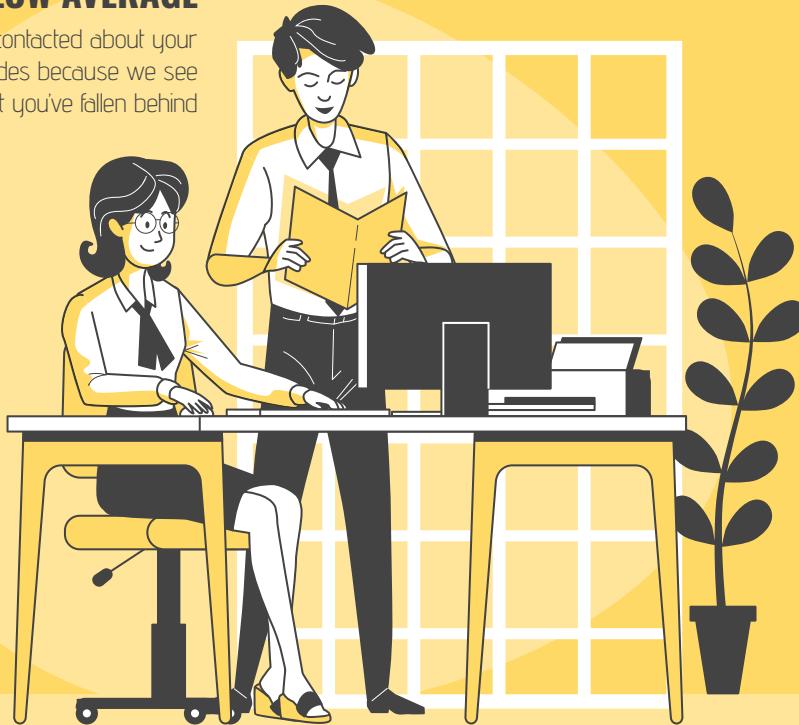
Sometimes, a TA will personally reach out to students

WELL BELOW AVERAGE

You will be contacted about your current grades because we see that you've fallen behind

DISAPPEARED

If you haven't been submitting homeworks and haven't been responding to project and study group emails





YOU CAN DO IT!

There are many ways to reach out for help

Professor Bhiksha Raj's office:
6705 Gates & Hillman Complex