

- **WARNING:** Please don't take this as the final word on how to study. First of all, everybody learns differently, second of all, I am an expert at math, not at the theory of studying, and finally, I'm squeezing this in among all the *other* things I have to get done (much as you're doing with all of your work), and so I may not think of everything. I would hate for someone to follow my advice to the letter (perhaps against their better judgment) and have it not work for them.
- **ADVICE:**
 - I know you have other classes, but spread studying for this exam out over several days. This way, information sinks in better; if you get frustrated, you can take breaks; if some calamity occurs on the day before the exam, you've already done a fair amount of studying; you can get plenty of sleep the night before the exam; etc
 - In an ideal world, the best way to study for a math test is to re-read all the readings (including your notes – this course is definitely heavily notes-based!), summarize the topics we've covered, and re-do as many homework problems as possible.

If you are not living in an ideal world (and who is), I would still skim the readings, and in the notes from class try to emphasize connections with math and art that may not have been covered much in the readings. Your main focus, however, should be to *do* (not to read) as great a variety of problems as possible. In addition to doing the few problems I've included on this study guide, you'll also want to redo as many problems as you can from the first three problem sets. (Notice that I said "redo" – simply reading through solutions doesn't do it.)
 - When you're doing problems, focus on *why* the steps are what they are. Spare some of your thoughts for how different problems are connected, and why various steps make sense.
 - When doing a problem that you've done before, don't waste your time trying to remember how you did before—often, memory proves to be false and can lead you astray. Just focus on doing what makes sense.
 - Should you study alone or with other people? That varies from person to person, but in general I'd say most of your studying should be on your own, particularly as it gets closer to the day of the exam. I think group study is best for most people at the beginning of the study process. Since the exam is individual, at some point in your studying, you have to be doing problems individually.
 - How long should you study for this? A lot. "A lot" will vary from person to person also, but I'd suggest an absolute minimum of 6 hours. If you've struggled with the problem sets, then leave more. If you breezed through the problem sets, then you *may* be able to get away with less – but why risk it?!

- TOPICS:

- Definitions of ratio and proportion
- What is a system of proportions, who uses them, and why?
- Understand the Vitruvian system for human proportions, the Modulor, and the Sacred Cut. We spent the most time in class on the Sacred Cut, of course.
- Be able to describe a couple of different ways ancient Romans seem to have used the Sacred Cut in architecture
- Acceptance Intervals, or Acceptance Ranges, for judging whether a ratio actually appears in art or architecture – where do they come from, how do we use them?
- The definition of the Mean and Extreme Ratio, and how it leads to the Golden Ratio.
- Judging whether a line is cut into Mean and Extreme ratio; figuring out how long to make a line if you want it to be cut into Mean and Extreme ratio and you know you want the short (or long, or whole) portion to be a certain length.
- How/where the Golden Ratio shows up in a pentagon/pentagram.
- Understanding how the golden ratio Φ and π both seem to appear in the Great Pyramid (if we get that far on February 9th).

- PROBLEMS:

The following problems are intended as a supplement to your review; they are not intended to replace reviewing the reading and class notes, or redoing homework problems.

A word of caution: You are responsible for all material covered in your reading, whether or not we covered it in class.

1. Use the Vitruvian system of proportion to decide how big you should make the distance from the middle of the breast to the crown if you've made the distance from the line between the eyes to the hairline 2" long.
2. Use geometry to find the length of the side of the Sacred Cut square, if the side of the outer square has length 2 .
3. You are designing a web page with two pictures that you would like to place side by side. For aesthetic reasons, you'd like them to be the same height, and yet the way the pictures are currently stored, one is taller than the other.

Here are the dimensions as they are stored on your computer:

Picture	Width (pixels)	Height (pixels)
Canaletto's <i>Piazza San Marco Looking South-East</i>	958	800
Rafael's <i>School of Athens</i>	800	554

4. You need to make the taller picture be the same height as the shorter one, without changing its shape.
 - (a) Which picture do you need to adjust?
 - (b) How high will it be?
 - (c) Use proportion to decide how wide it should be.
5. Even after adjusting one picture, these pictures are way too wide. If you want the total width of the two pictures to be 800 pixels,
 - (a) How high do they need to be, so that you haven't distorted either picture? (Use the results of part (a), so you only have to find one height.)
 - (b) How wide does each of the two pictures need to be, so that you haven't distorted either's shape?
6. Suppose Goldie measures her height and the height of her belly button. She only has a ruler, so the measurements aren't especially accurate: she finds her height to be $5'6'' \pm 2''$ and the height of her belly button to be $3'3'' \pm 1.5''$.
Find the interval in which the ratio of her height to her belly button must lie. Does the Golden Ratio lie in this interval?
7. Suppose you know you've measured the height of an archway accurate to within 3% and the width of the archway accurate to within 1.5%. If you found the height to be 83" and the width to be 56",
 - (a) What is the acceptance range for the ratio of height to width?
 - (b) Is $\sqrt{2}$ in this acceptance range?
8. For each of the following, you'll be drawing a line that is cut in mean and extreme ratio (i.e. the Golden Ratio).
 - (a) Suppose we want to draw a line cut in mean and extreme ratio, and we want the longer segment to have length 3. How long should the shorter segment be? Draw such a line as carefully as possible.
 - (b) Suppose we want to draw a line cut in mean and extreme ratio, and we want the short segment to be 5 units long. How long would the whole line be? Draw such a line as carefully as possible.
9. Suppose a splinter group in the class neither agrees with Euclid nor with the Very Cool ratio advocates. They feel strongly that the most beautiful way of cutting a line is as follows:

*A line is said to be cut in an **absolutely fabulous** ratio when the greater segment is to the lesser segment as the whole segment is to twice the greater.*

 - (a) What *is* this absolutely fabulous ratio? (That is, find what number it equals)
 - (b) Discuss the issue of the short segment versus the long segment.