

HALLEL BOOKS

Copyright © 2018

YOU CAN STILL MAKE FIRST-CLASS!

*(A quick read for all students who
desire academic excellence)*

Davies Oluwatosin
& Joanne Durber

Send feedback to Halleldigital@gmail.com

**YOU
CAN STILL MAKE
FIRST-CLASS!**

HALLEL BOOKS

Towards Excellence in Life & Ministry

COPYRIGHT

YOU CAN STILL MAKE FIRST-CLASS!

This publication is an intellectual property of Davies Oluwatosin & Joanne Durber. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be edited, reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or any other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher, at the address below.

E-mail: HalleDigital@gmail.com

Tel: +2348136282434

Table of Contents

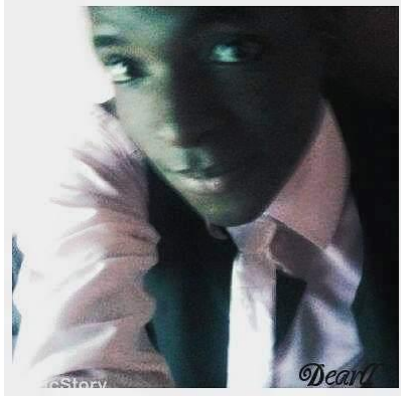
- Introduction
- Top Tips to getting a First-Class degree
 1. You need to really want it.....6
 2. Research, research, research7
 3. Learn to love the Library8
 4. Brush up on your presentation9
 5. ‘Harass’ your tutors10
 6. Go to your classes11
 7. Control your social media addiction12
 8. Pick courses you're passionate about12
 9. Find a study buddy13
 10. Stay healthy15

Inside:

- What You Should Do If You Struggle Academically.....16
- If you're struggling with your studies, the answers to these questions can help...16*

About the Authors

Davies Oluwatosin



Davies is a writer, web developer (Google certified) and entrepreneur. He is an avid reader too. After several years of marginalia and scribbling, he has chosen a career in writing, blogging, and entrepreneurship. He is currently learning PYTHON language.

Joanne Durber



Joanne Durber, currently studying for my BA in English Lit with Creative Writing at the University of Chester, I enjoy all writing. I'm a real foodie, aka I like to cook and bake as much as my student overdraft will let me and I love action/comic hero films – Batman and Iron Man all the way!

INTRODUCTION

So you've decided to pull your socks up and start gunning for a first class degree? We've got a booklet to get you on the right track!



Thousands of students are graduating with more first-class degrees in Nigerian universities, both private and public, compared to decades ago.

Whilst this does mean you're statistically better set up to bag a first now than ever before, it's worth remembering that nailing a top-class degree is no walk in the park.

If you're serious about getting the best result possible out of your university years, buckle up, you're in for a tough (but rewarding!) ride.

Top Tips for getting a First Class degree

1. You need to *really* want it

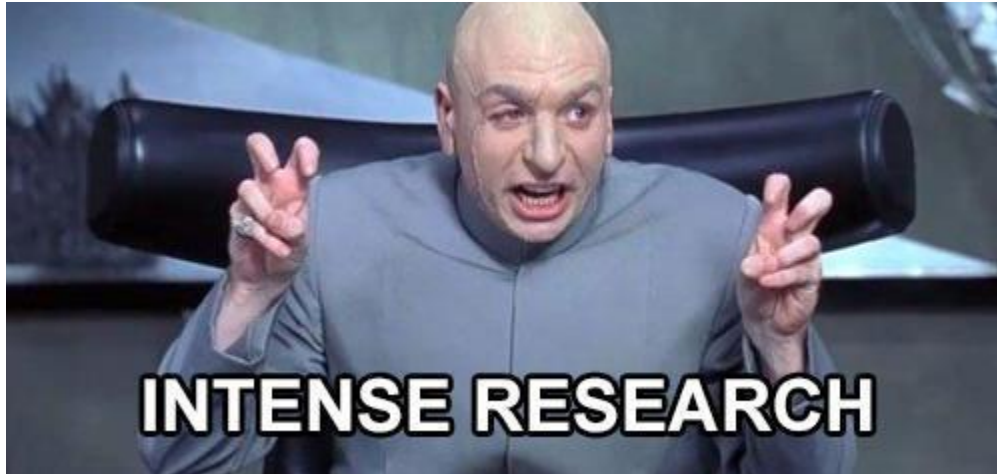


Just to state the obvious, if you're aiming for a first class degree you have to be prepared to put in maximum effort. It's no daily declaration. It's real work.

Students who manage to achieve a first class degree tend to be those who have a genuine desire to do the best they can consistently through the years, not just nail occasional top grade a few times and hope these will do the magic.

Even if you're one of these people who insists you work best under pressure – don't be foolish enough to think you'll get a first this way. If you frequently leave coursework to the last minute, you don't want this first class degree enough.

2. Research, research, research



If you have the attitude of “I've been to all my lectures, tutorials and facilitation, so I'm doing everything I can”, then you might as well quit the ambition.

Lecture hours are notoriously low, and whilst going to classes is incredibly important, it's the hours you put in outside of class and lectures that really matter. Read through your course materials carefully, and you're likely to find that the number of hours you're *expected* to put in each week are pretty high.

Getting a first degree isn't just about bagging your way through or managing to finish assignments on deadline dates. If you're serious about it, reading around outside of your recommended reading list is crucial and I mean crucial.

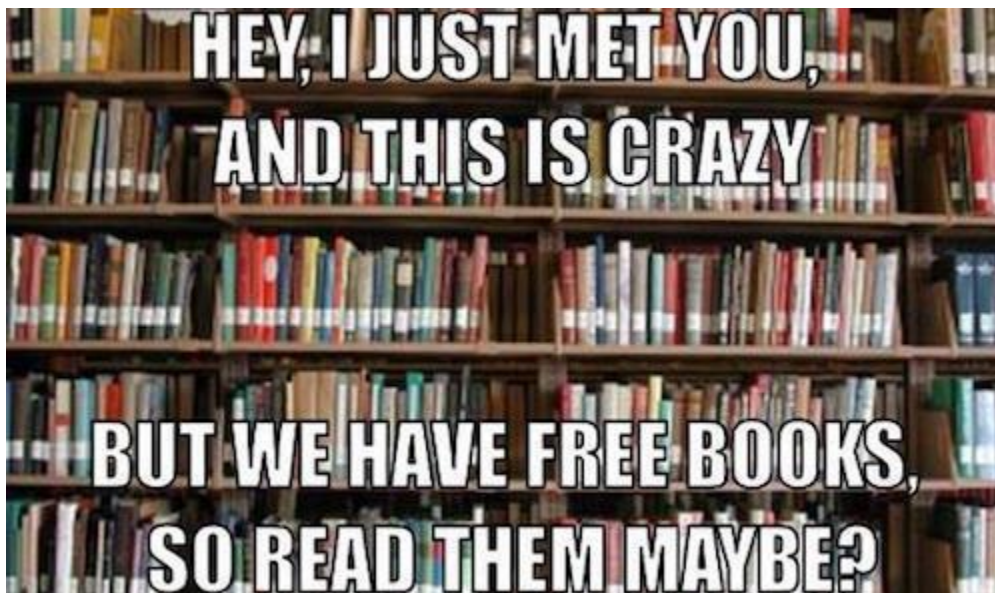
This doesn't mean reading academic texts cover-to-cover, of course. Don't spend hours and hours researching in one go. This just doesn't work and you'll end up forgetting most of what you read. I'm writing from experience.

Instead, marginalia your workbooks and highlight where necessary. Bookmark relevant websites, set google alerts for topics you're thinking of writing an essay or doing your dissertation on, and just generally try to keep up to date with relevant

discussion. Reading about developments in your area of academic interest should become part of your daily routine.

Over time, as you read around and get different perspectives, this will also help you to think critically and form an opinion of your own (don't just assume the same stance as your tutors – this isn't their goal and isn't likely to impress them... unless this is genuinely your stance).

3. Learn to love the Library



First thing's first – there's a difference between setting up in the library from dawn till dusk with half the contents of the shelves spread across the desk to make you feel more at home while you pretend to work. As you may have guessed, we hate these people.

Whilst learning to enjoy spending time in the library is really important, wasting time there socializing/ sleeping / tittle-tattling isn't going to get you anywhere.

Whilst online journals are a great resource, the best grades are normally awarded to students who can demonstrate they've made an effort to use a range of different sources, and that includes old paper books and scribbles.

After a while, you'll start to actually enjoy the process of searching and finding books that are relevant to your ideas. Just make sure that you take note of everything you use before returning that book back on the shelf (we're talking page numbers, chapters, authors, serial number, library shelf you found it on, the lot!). Chances are, if you haven't taken these details down you will need to find the book again and you will hate yourself.

Whatever you do, don't drop a critic's name without a reason. Knowing your critics and making a decision whether you support or oppose their views is extremely important. Remember that a first class student will have an idea and then use critical sources to support it, not the other way round.

4. **Brush up on your presentation**



It's not uncommon for students to miss out on a first class degree simply because they think presentation doesn't matter.

Correct spelling, punctuation and grammar are vital and unfortunately a lot of tutors will downgrade you substantially if your presentation's not up to scratch, no matter how great your ideas are.

Good writing skills help you to convey your ideas effectively, and can even make a relatively dull topic sound interesting – which is a feat in itself!

If you struggle with presentation, this isn't a huge deal. It just means you need to start course work that bit earlier to ensure you're on time.

Any software you'll be using to write papers will have spell checkers, and nowadays they're pretty advanced in how they detect grammar, too. Another way to ensure you don't lose marks for presentation is to email your assignments to a family member or friend and ask them (nicely!) to check for any obvious errors.

If your writing skills are something you are particularly worried about and you think you could do with some additional support, reach out to learning support at your university. They exist for a reason! Don't let something like this get in the way of nailing that first.

5. 'Harass' your tutors



Please note that we are using the term 'harass' lightly here – please don't get yourself into any trouble or you can kiss that first degree goodbye (and probably university altogether, if I'm honest).

Book appointments with tutors often, whether to discuss an upcoming assignment, get feedback, or just chat about an idea you have. Tutors are paid to be there for you and to help you when you're struggling!

You can also score some bonus points by discussing an interesting idea related to their field of expertise – this shows you have a genuine interest which they'll appreciate, and they'll be keen to hear a fresh perspective on a topic they've probably been drowning in for a number of years.

You can arrange a meeting by email or just asking after a class. If you've recently had an assignment graded by them, by all means bring it along and ask how you could improve, tell them about anything you struggled with, but don't waste their time asking for detailed feedback on everything you've written or you'll be in the bad books. lol

6. Go to your classes

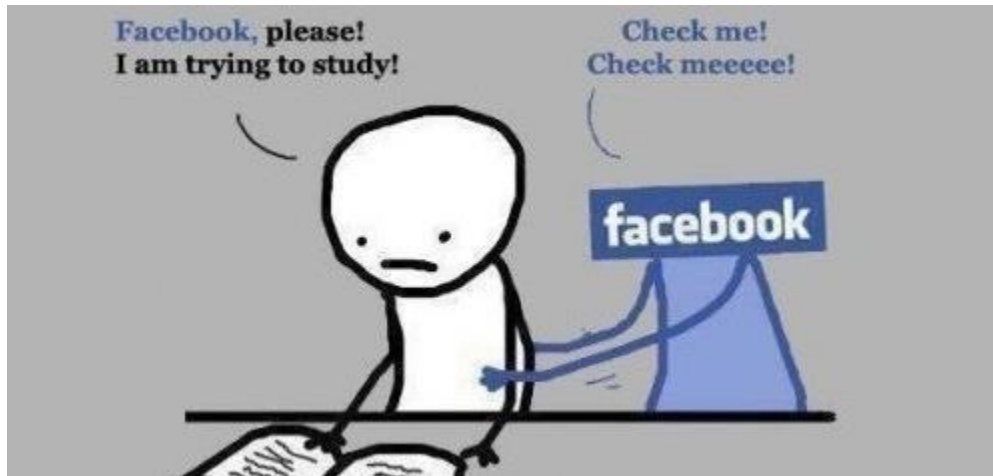


As I hinted in point two, attending lectures and seminars is one (very important) part of the first class degree puzzle.

Turning up to all of your timetabled commitments is the very least you should be doing to get the most out of your degree.

Turning up to class is also important to get on the right side of your tutors (you know, the people who will be grading your work?). They're likely to be a lot tougher when grading work from someone they know doesn't bother to show up to class than they would someone they see participating and putting effort in each assignment.

7. Control your social media addiction



Now, we all know how important it is to see the outfit that your friend's cousin's girlfriend wore to their engagement party at the weekend.

That said, as great fun as Facebook gossips and the social media can be, there is literally nothing that can be achieved with it, and studies have even shown that social media just adds to university stresses as you become more likely to compare yourself to classmates. Isn't that so much true?

Unsurprisingly, spending hours of your life on social media is also pretty bad for your grades. If you have a severe will power, set yourself a goal that you don't check social media until the evenings; if you struggle a bit in this area, your addiction is particularly bad, either deactivate your account or settle for a class lower. I'm sorry!

8. Pick courses you're passionate about



The whole point of doing a degree should be to expand your knowledge in the field, but the worst thing you can do is choose to focus on a subject that doesn't really excite you.

Of course, it's highly unlikely that every assignment is going to enthrall you, but try to choose exam topics and essay questions that you have a connection with.

Throughout the years, take note of anything that comes up in class that you find really interesting – this list will be a big help when it's time to write your final project.

9. Find a study buddy



Make peer pressure work for you. No matter how great your motivation levels are, there will always be days when you need a push to start out.

Befriending an equally ambitious student is always a good plan, as you can motivate each other to study on rainy days, and you'll find yourself feeling way more troubled about missing classes if your study buddy is making it in regularly.

Socializing with people on your course is also a good idea. Not only will it make hard work significantly more enjoyable, but being able to discuss ideas with them is a great way to develop your ideas and opinions (without boring them to death though)

10. Don't only be a 'Work-aholic'



If you don't make space in your study diary for some fun time, you'll either burn out or get totally fed up and start procrastinating even more.

As mentioned previously, this is particularly relevant to library time. Spending days on end in the library until you're at the point that all you can manage is using your books as a pillow while you snore the house down is not productive. If you're at that stage, it's time to take a break.

Balancing your studies with chill time and a bit of fun here and there will make you much happier and more inclined to use your study time productively. Don't be scared to ask a date with that buddy of yours.

11. Stay healthy



Don't underestimate how much of an impact your health can have on your grades.

Eating balanced foods and drinking lots of fluids (this excludes alcohol and stimulants, sorry) will set you up well to do the best you can do at university, so constant junks and takeaways for dinner should be avoided whenever possible.

Make sure you stay fit and active, too. You might not want to believe it, but exercising regularly will give you a huge energy. You may not need a gym to do this.

Of course, there's no way of guaranteeing a first class degree, so please don't take this guide as your passport to success. However, follow these tips and you're on the right track!

What You Should Do If You Struggle Academically

If you're struggling with your studies, the answers to these questions can help.

When most aspirants imagine their life in higher institution, they think of the fun they'll have, the memories they'll make, and all the new and exciting things they'll learn. Very few, however, daydream about the realities many students face:

struggling with assignments, failing exams, and needing help just to pull passing grades in their classes.

While you may feel alone if you're having problems balancing (and passing!) your classes, you're definitely not. No matter what kind of school you're attending, your institution undoubtedly has systems in place to help struggling students. You just haven't recognized them. Here are some questions you need to ask yourself

1. Where can I go for academic help?

The likelihood that you're the first student on your campus to be struggling academically is nonexistent. That's true. There are in fact many quiet battlers of your colleagues. That means, of course, that there are places you can go for help.

First and foremost, reach out to your tutors. While going to office hours and talking to a professor might be scary, remember that they, too, were college students once. Talk to them about your struggles. Ask them for what guidance they can give, whether it be the name of a tutor or a book or some other kind of assistance.

Additionally, talk to your academic/level adviser or student counselor. If you're too nervous talking to your lecturers, your adviser can be a great resource. He or she might know other students with whom you can form a study group; they might have some tips on how to do better in a certain professor's class; they might help you come up with an action plan of how to better manage your course load.

Your campus *likely* also has some kind of academic support or facilitation most especially for 3 units and practical courses. Use it! It's part of what you pay for in your "tuition." Even if you aren't sure what kind of help you need, stop in to see what it has to offer. From peer advisers to faculty to other related offices, get help

2. When should I go for academic help?

OK, so you've only failed one mid-semester test or a whole semester or you're getting C's and D's on your papers, which means you'll pass but just barely.

The best time to seek help is right now; before you desperately need it. Don't wait until you're in too deep to get some support. If you've failed a mid-semester or a semester, that means you need help studying for the next one—not that you should wait and see how the next one goes. And if you're not doing as well as you'd like on

things like assignments and lab reports, getting help sooner can make all the difference between just passing and doing well.

3. When should I drop a class?

If you're considering dropping a class, go talk to your level adviser or student counselor as soon as possible. You'll need his or her signature anyway, so set up an appointment as soon as you think you might need, or want, to drop a class. You can talk about why you want to drop, what your alternative options are, what it means for your course, what it means for next semester, and what (if anything) it means for your financial purse. Additionally, there are livelines by which you need to drop a class, so see your adviser as soon as you can.

4. What can I do to help myself?

Even if you talk to your tutors, go to the academic support center on campus, and have a few heart-to-heart chats with your adviser, your academic performance will still boil down to one major factor: you!

Keep in mind that the choices you make every day in school have an impact on how you perform in your classes which accounts for your overall success in the course. Taking care of yourself physically—meaning getting enough sleep, eating healthy and regularly, and exercising, having occasional dates—can drastically improve your mental sharpness.

Additionally, monitor how you spend your time. Consider dropping one or more of your activities so you can focus on passing your classes. Change where and when you study so you aren't distracted by friends or loud crowds. Get a study buddy or group as earlier advised to help you not only better understand the material but also develop the skills needed to learn better on your own. Tapping into the resources available to you, both internally and externally, can be your best bet if you're facing problems with your classes.

End Note

We are hoping that you will put into use, the knowledge acquired and thrive academically. We also wish that you make first class for what it's worth. However, there are loads of other ways, you can improve your job prospects whilst studying at your best. You could even make yourself more employable than some first class students!

We would be pleased to speak in your seminars. We are students, like you!

You can request a free copy of *David Oluwatosin* mini books.

1. 5 Life-changing Tips that *School will not* teach youll (E-book)
2. Laboratory instructional guide for lab users (E-book)

We 'd love to hear from you. Contact us:

E-mail: Halleldigital@gmail.com, Tel: 2348136282434

.....

Best regards.

David & Joanne

About The Book

This publication has been written in the most comprehensible way for all students. We pray that you find answers through this work and make proud yourself, your family and the world at large. We are sure to see you at the top.

Don't forget to write us!

Davies Oluwatosin
& Joanne Durber

Copyright © 2018