Knowing what's in a syllabus is often the key to survival in a course. See if you can answer these questions by looking at the syllabus for each of your courses. (Write N/A for any item that is not relevant.)

1. Does your instructor include a reading schedule for the semester?

2. Does the instructor intend to follow the chapters in order?

3. Are there any chapters that will not be covered?

4. How many tests will there be?

5. What are the dates of the tests?

6. What kind of items will be on the test (essay, multiple choice, T-F)?

7. Does the instructor allow late work? Make-up exams?

8. Is the final exam retroactive?

9. Are there papers/projects? If yes, what are the topics, deadlines? Are the requirements and guidelines included in the syllabus, or is that information to be provided by the instructor?

10. Are there extra credit opportunities? If so, what are they?

11. Does the instructor grade on a curve or use a standard grading system?

12. What are your responsibilities if you are absent?

13. From reading the syllabus, what are the instructor's expectations, areas of focus, pet peeves, etc.?

Adapted from the SAIL Program, CSUSB