Reading and Studying
Prior Knowledge

- Information you have learned from past experience.
- What you already know about the new material.
- Knowledge you can apply to new situations.
Take an Active Approach to Textbook Reading

- Approach the text with an open mind.
- Know that some texts require extra time and concentration.
- Ask for help for anything you do not understand.
Choose the Right Study Environment

- Alone or with a group?
- Where to study?
- When to study?
- How to deal with internal and external distractions?
Know your Purpose for Reading

- Read for understanding.
- Read to critically evaluate.
- Read for practical application.
- Read for pleasure.
SQ3R Reading/Study System

- **Survey**: Look over text information BEFORE you read the material.
  - Check information at beginning of chapter.
  - Look at all titles, bold print, italics, charts, tables.
  - Look at the chapter’s end summary.
Change headings into questions to guide your reading and predict what is included in the information.

Example question:
What does “questioning” mean in SQ3R?
Read the text with active involvement.

- Focus on your Q-stage questions.
- Look for important concepts to mark in the text or to note on your paper.
- Mark or annotate your textbook.
Mark/Annotate Your Text

- Mark the text **only** after you read the material once through.
- Mark at the end of a paragraph or passage.
- Mark **only** main ideas, major details, terms and definitions.
- Mark passages you don’t understand with “?”
Annotation

- Make notes or write questions in the margin.
- Note connections to previous text information.
- Develop your own system of notations.
- Use different colored highlighters.
- Use highlighters sparingly.
Recite: Go back and answer the questions you identified in the Q-stage.
- Write the answers in notes from memory.
- Say the answers aloud by telling yourself or teaching someone else.
Review: Do something to help you remember both soon after reading and then on a regular basis throughout the semester.

- Skim/reread notes.
- Answer test questions.
- Quiz yourself.
- Make a chapter outline.
- Re-survey/skim the material.
- Recite (out loud) key concepts/ideas.
- Make flash cards.
- Review marked/highlighted material.
- Think critically.
- Discuss material with classmate or study group.
- Connect new information to prior knowledge.
Critical Reading/Thinking Involves Looking for:

- Similarities.
- Differences.
- Cause and Effect Relationships.
- Examples to Ideas Development.
- Ideas to Examples Development.
- Evaluations.
Group Study Benefits

- Shared knowledge.
- Solidified knowledge.
- Increased motivation.
- Increased teamwork ability.

- Groups have both leaders and participants.
Effective Group Participants

- Get involved.
- Are organized.
- Are willing to discuss issues.
- Keep their word.
Effective Leaders

- Define and limit projects.
- Assign and set a schedule.
- Set meeting and project agendas.
- Focus progress.
- Set the tone for the group.
- Evaluate the results.
Strategies for Group Success

- Choose a leader.
- Set long-term and short-term goals.
- Learn to adjust to different personalities.
- Share the workload.
- Set a regular meeting schedule.
- Create study materials for each other.
- Help each other learn.
- Pool note-taking resources.