

# Learning to Study Smarter

## Review! Review! Review!

### Daily Review:

- FIRST, Review your class notes for 10 minutes as soon after class as possible. If you cannot review your notes immediately after class, do so within at least 24 hours of the class.
- Use this time to fill in gaps in your notes (Did you leave something out? Now is the time to fill it in.)
- Then, when you have more time that day, read back over your notes in order to understand the main ideas & key points. This may take longer because you are learning NEW material.
- *Think* about what you wrote in your notes...what does it mean?
- Begin to “reduce” your notes (use the Cornell Note-taking Method, for example.)

### Weekly Review:

- Find some time at the end of each week to review...Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Sunday evening...choose a time that is most convenient for you and stick to it.
- Allot one hour per class (this will vary as some classes will require more time, and some less).
- Look for the “big picture” and connections in the material.
- ACTIVELY ENGAGE in your studying by using note cards, re-writing notes, reading them aloud, playing back recorded lectures, creating timelines or concept maps/charts/a study matrix Find one the active studying strategy that works for you.

### Pre-Exam Review:

- Begin one to two weeks prior to the test (depending on amount of material, difficulty, etc.).
- Set aside blocks of time to study: One student may choose to set aside eight different study periods of 1-2 hours each, while another student may prefer to study for 2-3 hour blocks at 4 or 5 different times during the week. The choice is yours and depends a great deal on your attention span and what your schedule allows.
- Keeping up with Daily & Weekly reviews will ensure that your Pre-Exam review is easier and better organized. This preparation means cramming is unnecessary.

### The key is to start EARLY and KEEP UP!

- Don't just work by due dates...develop START DATES! Mark START DATES in your calendar.
- Break projects down—make a list of all the different parts to be completed and set deadlines for these individual projects.
- These strategies will keep you on target to complete your paper, project, or test preparation on time.