

Studying & Test Taking

- ❖ When updating and condensing notes ask:
 - How can I organize this information?
 - Each method of organization reveals and hides different connections.
 - How can I picture this information?
 - Use shapes, lines, color
 - What is my hook for remembering this information?
 - Passive repetition is one of the worse ways to memorize (Right up there with putting your notes under your pillow).
 - Link facts or isolated ideas with a picture, pattern, rhyme or story. Hooks that are funny, outlandish, or dramatic are easier to remember.
 - How does this fit into what I already know?
- ❖ A simple test of whether you understand a concept is when you can: Define it in your own words, give your own example of it, and explain its relationship to other concepts.
- ❖ Think about your responsibilities: If you want to learn, YOU have to do most of the work, not the professor. Professors cannot create understanding.
- ❖ If you aren't a little confused, you're not learning anything new. Learning is hard work.
- ❖ Rehearse (don't study) for a test:
 - Predict exam questions: What material will be on the test, what is the format, what answers will your professor expect?
 - Review previous exams from the professor, talk to students who have taken the class, and attend review sessions.
 - Remember the big picture and where this information fits in.
 - Review your previous exams and professors' comments.
 - Review your original notes and insure you have all the important information of your summary sheet.
 - Make sure you can answer the "expect" questions.
 - From memory, reconstruct your summary sheet. Once you can do it 100%, your practice is finished.
- ❖ Tests measure how well you prepare for them and take them, not just what you know.

- ❖ When taking tests, make sure you:
 - 1 – Take a few minutes to write down anything you think you'll forget
 - 2 – Carefully read the directions
 - 3 – Skim through the test
 - 4 – Budget your time: Students commonly spend too much time on questions they know least
 - 5 – Start the test.

- ❖ Review your test thoroughly when you get it back. Review the questions, your answers, your mistakes and your professor's comments. Look for:
 - What was your biggest problem overall: material, understanding, preparation, test taking?
 - What types of comments did the professor make; Did the professor expect a different type of answer, more analysis, fewer facts?
 - What caused your mistakes and how can you avoid them in the future: misreading, panic, not study material?
 - From where did the professor draw the test questions: text, class, review? Do you have the information in your notes?
 - How can you better prepare for the next test?
 - Don't challenge your professor; ask: How could I have improved my answers?