

PPRRR Reading Method

1. PREVIEW:

Take some time before each class – the night before or morning of, to preview the day’s lecture material. You might be surprised how much 10 minutes of previewing will dramatically affect your level of understanding during lecture.

Look over sections of the text to be covered in the next lecture. Read the introduction, sub-heading, words in bold-faced type, first sentences of each paragraph, diagrams, charts, and conclusion or summary.

After previewing, ask yourself the following: What is this section about? What will be the main points brought up during the next lecture?

If time allows, look over previous lecture’s notes. This can be done while waiting for class to start.

2. PARTICIPATE:

Participate during lecture by actively listening and taking notes. Consider this time to be a time for learning – not just a time for recording notes that will be studied later.

Carefully listen and take notes about what the professor says, not just what he/she writes down. The Cornell Note Taking System is a widely used system for taking class notes.

Leave space between topics or leave the opposing page blank to add notes from the textbook and discussion sessions.

Put question marks beside items you need to look up or ask about in the next discussion section.

Try not to be frustrated or resigned if you do not understand what is being presented. Do your best to stay with the lecture, but when you get lost, shake it off and regain your focus.

3. READ:

After each class, as soon as possible (at most, within 24 hours), review the lecture notes and read sections of the textbook that were covered in the recent lecture.

Read sections of the text with lecture notes available, referring to specific parts of your notes when possible.

Read only one small section at a time, in an active mode. Ask yourself at the end of each reading, “What was this reading about?” or “What new information did this section give me?”

Follow each section with a recall exercise.

4. RECALL:

Immediately after reading each small section of the text, practice recalling that information. Research shows that we forget about 40-50% of what we read within about 15 minutes unless we take measures to recall it immediately.

Add information from the text to your lecture notes to fill in gaps from lecture, clarify definitions and concepts, and elaborate on points brought up in class. Add diagrams, charts, and figures from text to notes when appropriate.

Keep an ongoing collection of flash cards or list of key terms and their definitions.

Select practice problems from the text pertaining to the reading. Work through these to test your understanding of the material.

5. REVIEW:

Set aside time each week to review and summarize the course material you’ve been reading and notes you’ve been taking.

Review your lecture/text notes, flashcards, lists, charts, diagrams, and problem sets. Synthesize material from different chapters before the exam by making concept maps, charts, and creating difficult test questions.

Reorganize the material so that it makes sense to you.

Talk over concepts with your study partners. Visit instructor during office hours to ask any questions you may have.