**LEARN *FASTER*. LEARN *MORE*.**

Tom Thole Study Center

Alcuin 371 @ SJU

**READING STRATEGIES FOR TRADITIONAL TEXTBOOKS.**

When your syllabus says READ it really means **LEARN**. Reading this kind of text straight through will achieve the goal of reading but it is not the best for learning.

**There is a better (and faster) way.**

1. **SURVEY the information in the chapter. 5 minutes.**

Consider the chapter title. What are you about to learn?

Preview the chapter, reading the outline, section headings, illustrations (and captions!), conclusion and discussion questions.

1. **Identify questions that will guide your reading and make it more interesting. 5 minutes.**

What are the big ideas or concepts that are repeated in each area?

Hints: Turn each section heading into a question.

The conclusion and discussion sections are particularly good sources of questions.

1. **READ ONE SECTION. 10-15 minutes.**

What is the concept? Can you describe it in your own words? In a diagram?

Can you answer the question(s) you identified from your preview?

How is this alike or different from similar concepts? How does it connect with other concepts?

Seek clarification from peers, text, other resources. Note questions to ask in class or office hours.

Repeat for subsequent sections, taking a short break in between sections.

1. **RECITE to test your recall. 5-10 minutes.**

Use practice and repetition so you will remember the information and be able to use it in the future.

Practice writing or drawing concept maps to illustrate what you understand or what needs more attention.

1. **REVIEW the chapter, using the same pattern as the chapter preview. 5-10 minutes**

Talk through main concepts in your own words and out loud to gage your understanding.

What questions or need for clarification do you have?

Once a week, review your notes from the week and the chapters read. Test and clarify your understanding. (30 minutes)