Making Study Notes

Making great study notes can help you review lecture material to solidify it in your memory, combine important ideas/concepts from readings with lecture content, and prepare for midterms and finals.

Things to consider:

- **Write in your own words.** Don’t just copy down word-for-word what the Prof said or a textbook definition. Flex your brain muscles and try and reword main ideas in a way that will help you remember and understand them for the future.

- **Organize course information in a way that’s meaningful to you.** Study notes do not take on one shape or style. Consider how you learn best and create study notes that are handwritten, typed, charts, concept maps, diagrams, cue cards, etc.

- **Don’t include everything and the kitchen sink in your notes.** Try your best to highlight what is most important, or summarize notes taken from readings/lectures. Hint: what does your Prof spend the most time on, get excited about, or even hint at being on the final? Does your textbook include a summary for each chapter, or bold key ideas throughout the reading? These are key pieces of information to include in your study notes.

What to include

1. **Start with your topic.**
   - List the main ideas related to this topic
   - List the supporting details associated with the topic
   - Identify the key terms associated with the topic

2. **Identify relevant examples.** List any examples that will help you understand this topic.

3. **Find connections.** List any connections you are able to identify within the topic. These connections can be to other topics/units within the course, or between ideas within one topic.