

Subject:	Subject:
Final Exam:	Final Exam:
Main Concepts:	Main Concepts:
Active Study Strategies and Resources:	Active Study Strategies and Resources:

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Planning for Finals

2-3 weeks before finals week: Overview of all of the material

- Create a list of the main concepts for the final
- Identify the most difficult areas (Rate your knowledge of each concept with a 1, 2, or 3 or color-code)
- Create a list of *active* study strategies and resources you have used in the past or plan to use (office hours, study lab open hours, classmates, online resources, TA's, etc.)
- Fill out the Finals Prep Chart and Finals Planner
- Decide which study tools you will create to organize your materials
 - flash cards
 - compare/contrast cards
 - concept maps
 - summary sheets
 - diagrams
 - outlines
 - timelines
 - mnemonic devices

2-1 week(s) before finals week: Review content and self-test, begin with difficult areas

- rework homework, quiz, and exam questions
- create a list of open-ended questions for a concept and answer them a day or two later
- answer chapter or study-guide questions
- take turns testing a study partner
- teach someone else concepts
- self-test on chapter and lecture notes
- explain objectives (made by your instructor or you) in your own way (writing, diagramming, talking, etc.)
- *For essay exams*
 - Come up with ten possible essay questions using your notes and texts
 - Outline a brief answer to each
 - Reduce the outlined answer to key words that you can remember. Use acronyms or mnemonic devices to remember these key words
 - Even if these questions do not appear, you will have organized the course content in your mind.

7 days before each exam: Study *all* material thoroughly. Study with others and work through tough questions on previous exams. Test each other with possible final exam questions.

- Utilize outside resources:
 - Tutoring
 - Review sessions
 - Study groups/partners

1 day before an exam: review briefly and get a good night's sleep. You have studied the material three times in the past seven days. Sleep will help you recall and use what you have learned.

Remember to use active studying techniques to prepare!

Active Studying	Passive Studying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain material in your own words, from memory • Develop a concept map or flow chart • Answer practice questions • Relate theories to made-up stories or real life, personal examples • Look at charts and diagrams and explain them in your own words • Answer Higher Order Thinking Questions- Why? How? What if? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flashcards for memorization • Rewriting notes • Rereading chapter summaries • Looking over chapter outlines • Rereading textbook • Reviewing highlighted material from your textbook