

Best study strategies... (Ideas from Autumn '03 Geology 101 night class students, in no particular order)

- * Study to know, not to memorize. You'll just forget it (if you memorize).
- * Read ahead, read slowly to really understand the text. Take notes.
- * First, read the chapter objectives, as slowly as possible. Next, read the summary at the end of the chapter. Go through the chapter and read it. The next day, go back and highlight important info. Go over the highlights until you understand it.
- * Reading the assigned text! Comprehend it and then go back and look for what we will probably be tested on and outline it along with notes. Study it and then read the text one last time before class.
- * Budgeting time is the strategy that works for me. I allocate a certain amount of time each day for each class and I motivate myself to learn during that time. / Set a timeline!
- * Finding the most important facts to learn. Read them 3x every night before bed. Your mind will review them all night in your sleep. / Review material before going to bed and sleep on it.
- * Read the assigned chapters and take notes. Listen to lectures and take notes. / Actually reading the textbook and taking good notes during class. / Take notes. / Take notes all the time. / Take good notes and read. / Take notes and study them. / Taking notes on the reading, making an outline.
- * Type notes after class. Read material (text) 2-3 times.
- * Detailed outline and re-reading.
- * Review class notes immediately after class, again before bed, and again before the exam.
- * If a study guide is supplied for tests, go through and write down most of the main points, because even if you read it and remember it, when you go back over it on the test, it will leave your memory before you have time to write it out.
- * Take a 5-10 minute break or switch subjects every 20 minutes. The human brain has a hard time retaining information after 20 minutes. / Take a 10-minute break every hour to move around and let your mind absorb what you've just been studying. I do this and I think it helps a lot, especially when memorizing things.
- * Flash cards, and working together with a friend. / Group study.
- * I'm a visual learner, so I learn by visuals and by doing.
- * Lots of multicolored highlighters to delineate importance in text. Organized notes.
- * Doing brainstorm.
- * Don't procrastinate! Sometimes I use it and sometimes I don't, but I always wish I had.

Best study strategies... (Ideas from Spring '03 Geology 101 night class students, in no particular order)

- * Study every day
- * Review notes often, highlight while reading text, and make notecards for vocabulary and key concepts
- * Study before the day before the test
- * Read it - reread it - outline it
- * Cover the answer before reading the question - Subconsciously you tend to look at the answer instead of thinking about it
- * Go to class and look over notes that night after class so the material gets into your brain
- * Read, read, read, try to use it
- * Anecdotes, flashcards, read in sections at a time not one long extended period, group activities and study groups
- * Review, read, review
- * Find a study group. Group study sessions. Consistent studying ahead of time.
- * Notes, notes, notes!
- * Working at my own pace with tests at the end of each chapter. Notes and rewriting.
- * Good notes and read the chapters twice
- * Study 2 hours per 1 hour of classtime and you will do well
- * Be consistent with study times
- * Attend class and read textbook
- * Do homework daily and group study
- * Rehearsing is the best study strategy that I've used
- * I think it depends upon the content of study. Group study and notecards have helped me in the past.
- * Read, re-read, write, teach
- * Study 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off
- * Notecards. Acronyms.
- * Repetition is the key to learning

Study Strategies posted to online class discussion board (thru 9/28/03):

I don't know if any of you have been doing the ACE self tests that came on the CD-Rom included with the book, I have found them to be a good study guide for the quizzes on each of the chapters. They are great for letting you know how much you have retained from the readings and also what areas you need more studying on. The great thing is you can take the tests over and over, and an added bonus is the questions also give you added information regarding the chapter's material. I think it's a great study tool and has helped me a great deal.....so if any of you have used them, let me know what you think of them.

→ I agree, Jan. I read the text and then take the multiple choice quiz. It helps me realize what I didn't grasp and I go back and re-read. Then I take all the quizzes. It's surprising how much more I get the second time through.

As I have been studying for this class and a couple of others, I have found I tend to retain more information if I talk out the tricky information with someone who has never taken the class before. It requires a bit of patience and you need to be sure you don't speak over their head. Try to teach the person about what you are learning. Then, make them repeat the basic ideas behind what you taught them (These earthquakes happen at these plate boundaries because...). It makes you go over the information enough to converse, and makes you look for other people's misunderstandings in what they are learning.

Also, try to go over your tests and quizzes after they have been graded. You can find the stuff you had trouble with and go back over it; it helps you because it just might be on a midterm or a final.

My personal attack on studying includes as many texts I have available that will help me educate better. Included in these are encyclopedias, dictionaries, and associated text books. For this class I have an old geology text as well as the class one. I also use the future chapters in each book to help find current answers. Such as for quizzes. Generally each chapter builds on itself so many of the current themes within say chapter one are included in the following chapters. Most of the time this information is in greater and expanded detail. I always research questions within these several texts and within the further readings of the current texts.

My advice would be to go out and experience geology in as many avenues as possible. Especially since this is an online course, we spend about 95% of the time reading...reading our textbook, reading articles, etc. That can get a bit monotonous after a while. But if you watch a PBS special on plate tectonics, or if you go to a museum and look at rocks and minerals, it will help you absorb much more, since you are experiencing learning about geology in so many different ways. Some good ways to do this are to go to the Pacific Science Center (you can take your little brother or sister if you're embarrassed...) or borrow some PBS/Nova videos or DVDs from the public library.

My study strategy is a bit late for this quarter but might be helpful in future. I purchase the texts as soon as they are available and start reading them right away. I usually have a very full class load in addition to a job, so every little bit helps.

They say it takes 3 or more exposures (actually up to 7 in some cases) to the material in order to grasp it. My strategy helps in that I've already read the entire text before the class even starts. The first time I read it, there is no pressure, I just read through it as if I'm reading a novel. I do not attempt to memorize or retain anything, I just read through it, maybe a chapter a day or so.

After class starts, chapters to read are assigned. At this point I read pretty carefully for content, and then complete any assignments. The day of or the day before a test, I read the chapter or chapters for the third time. By this

time, I usually have a pretty thorough grasp of the material, and do pretty well on tests. Reading something twice in the same day is not nearly as effective as reading the same material a week (or better several weeks) or more apart.

It isn't always possible to get the text well in advance, or to read it well in advance, but when it is, I highly recommend doing so. Don't pressure yourself to retain anything at all, just pretend you're reading it for fun. You'll be glad you did later.

1. One of my study strategies is to figure out what study time and place works best for me. The time of day and location can have a big impact on how well I can concentrate and learn the material. My favorite study time is in the morning, with a cup of coffee, in my bedroom with a radio or tv in the background. (Sounds like the game "Clue"!) But for others, it may be while they are eating lunch in a busy cafeteria or with a study group at the library in the evening. Whatever time and place that you feel the most ready/open to studying should be used so you can get the most out of it.

2. Another study strategy is to take the time to focus on what you are trying to accomplish (read a chapter, complete an ACE quiz, read the chapter summary, work on a lab project, etc.) within the time you have to study. There have been times that I've started studying without a specific objective and I run out of time before I've covered the essential material. Having a plan can keep you on track.

3. My favorite study strategy is create an incentive for getting the work done. I think of something fun I'd like to do or a favorite treat and I use that as incentive to complete my studying, write a paper, complete a project, etc.

Hope this helps!

Ok guys, this might sound like a lot of work, but it REALLY helps out. When I'm about to study for a huge exam and I feel like I have a whole bunch of material swimming around in my head, I do the following:

-get my notes/note cards, etc. -develop a lesson plan on the material -grab my video camera -then record yourself "teaching" a lesson to a class on the particular material -next, I watch the video and take notes on things that I have questions about (this really helps yourself to catch questions that you haven't thought of yet about the material)

***Studying like this is helpful to EVERYONE because it caters to EVERY learning style: Audio learners, visual learners, and hands on learners. It is a GREAT learning tool (and kinda fun too).

Sometimes when I study (especially difficult/confusing material) I get so frustrated and burnt out before finishing the material that I want to give up and say "Forget this!"

But I know I still have to finish it. So, as soon as I start to feel like this, I go to the gym. I don't even have to go for that long. Just long enough to jog out all of my frustration and clear my head. Kickboxing class seems to do the trick for me. I feel so much better by the time I'm done, I come home feeling refreshed and powerful. I feel like I am ready to take on all the material and conquer it (you would too if you just kicked and punched the lights out of a punching bag for an hour :-). Even a brisk walk around the block would probably do it for most.

Good luck everyone and don't give up!!

I read challenging concepts or material out loud. From what I've read and experienced with study strategies, you retain more information when you read aloud.

Another strategy is to go through the chapters and take notes in a small bound index card booklet. I'll write down (using Geol as an example) definitions, laws, names of scientists and their accomplishments, stages of development - This gives me a quick reference while using the advantage of writing to help engrain

the information. (Typing does not register in the brain to be nearly as beneficial as writing when it comes to learning)

I also find it extremely useful to read for an hour or so, take a fifteen minute break, and then start again. This fifteen minute break helps prevent information overload.

I find that this works very well for me - hopefully it may help you as well. I take all the info that we are to cover that week or before an exam or test and make a cd or tape recording of it, (basically oral study notes) and then I listen to it everyday while I work out. Since time is very limited for me I find that this kills two birds with one stone. Granted I do not always feel like studying but even when you are zoning out, having the info repeated to you often makes it "stick". Try it, after a couple of days you will be amazed at how much info you retain.

One study strategy I had passed down to me from one of my profs was- when you have a big exam coming up, make sure to get a good nights rest TWO nights in a row. And don't do any studying the last few hours before the exam. Use that time to relax and let your brain process the information.

This is a great little article to sum up the importance of good sleep and learning: http://www.researchmatters.harvard.edu/story.php?article_id=26

Another thing I really think helps when I'm studying is to put on light music. I usually pick something classical, because it's soft and helps to prevent distractions from other noises in the room.

I know a few people who use loose index cards, punch/drill a hole in the upper left corner of each, and use one of those round shower-curtain or large-key-ring rings (about 50 cents) to string them together. That way you can rearrange them if you want, or pull out just a few. (I think some folks put definition terms on the front and "answers" on the back.) I color-code everything, so I'd probably used colored cards, with a different color for each chapter or type of concept.

I create a two column table in Microsoft Word with the key terms in the first column. In the second column, I add the definition without looking in the book. When there are processes that are related to the terms, I add these to the terms they go with. I then look up the definition to see how close I come. If I'm not close, I do it again. This then becomes part of my notes that I reread before an exam.

I read the assigned reading with a notebook next to me, when I read an idea or thought that seems to be a main point I jot down a couple of words about it, and continue reading. When I am finished reading the assignment I go back and look at my notes and re-read and expand on the ideas that I have jotted down. I then make flash cards for the vocabulary terms I have just learned, and also for methods and theories that will have to be referenced often. This may be a bit of a long process, but it helps me to comprehend what I have just read, and gives me something to refer to when needed.