

# PREPARING FOR EXAMS

## DURING THE TERM

- Find out early on in your course how and when you will be evaluated
  - Learn consistently and prepare yourself for exams throughout the term
- Learn as you go - Get the big picture and connect details:
  - After each lecture, after each chapter, after each theme, etc.
- Test yourself often.
  - Find out what you know and what you don't know
  - Practice what you have difficulty doing
- Prepare summary sheets or study aids based on major themes/topics

## 1 - 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE EXAM

- Identify themes/topics that will be on the exam:
  - Always go to the last class before the exam; check the course outline and table of contents of text
- Plan available study time to cover all themes/topics that will be on the exam
  - Plan to work on more difficult or untested concepts first.
- For each theme/topic, integrate important ideas from text and/or readings and class notes:
  - Make connections
  - Look for patterns
  - Use graphic organizers.
- Test yourself
  - Do the exam activity under exam conditions (no books or notes + time limit)
  - Predict questions and/or use past exams
  - Use the practice questions often found in textbook
- Improve retention of main ideas through:
  - Elaboration
  - Visualization
  - Application
  - Reflection
  - Connection,
  - Repetition

**Quality time is more important than quantity time!**