Previewing Before A Lecture

**WHY PREVIEW?**

- It establishes a starting point.

- It sensitizes you to the terms and concepts to listen for during the lecture and improves foundation for long-term memory.

- It helps to begin the organizing and condensing phase of studying by identifying major topics and categories.

- It gives you an opportunity to take advantage of your past knowledge so that you focus on unknown vs. known material.

**HOW DO I PREVIEW?**

- **Before starting to preview, ask yourself: What are the terms and concepts that I need to learn?**
  - This question focuses your mind to actively discriminate between what you do know (as in information learned during other classes) and what you don’t know.

- **As you keep this question in mind, skim your packets and texts focusing on major headings, graphs, figures, and pictures.**
  - The purpose of this is to create a list of the terms and concepts you don’t know anything about. This list can be highlighted or jotted down. This also provides awareness of topics/ categories around which facts and details can be organized.

**WHEN DO I PREVIEW?**

- **Previewing should be done either the night before the lecture** or right before the lecture and should take only 10 or 20 minutes.