

# Preparing for Class

- **Do your homework!**
- **Read critically;** form your own opinions
- **Review your notes** from the previous lecture and reading for the day
- **Communicate immediately with professors** about any study problems
- **Focus on the task at hand before class**, take a moment of silence to gather your thoughts and mentally prepare yourself to the topic
- **Write any objectives** that come to mind at the head of your notepaper:
  - preparing for an up-coming test,
  - understanding a particular concept,
  - gaining a good foundation on a topic
  - understanding or reviewing the readings

## In Class:

- **Arrive on time for class.**  
Professors do not take lateness lightly
- **Position yourself in the classroom**  
to focus on the subject matter; consider the best location for:
  - listening
  - asking questions
  - seeing visual materials
  - discussing--not only with the teacher but also your classmates
- **Avoid distractions**  
that may interfere with your concentration  
(daydreaming, looking around the room, talking to a friend, passing notes, dozing)
- **Evaluate as you listen:**
  - Decide what is important and should be placed in your notes and what can be left out;
  - Listen long enough to be sure you understand what was said before writing.
  - *Ask clarifying questions* (but wait for "breaks" in the instructor's stream).
- **Review your class objective(s)** throughout the class period
  - Did your objective(s) mesh with the instructor's introductory remarks?
  - Has the class digressed from stated objectives, yours or the instructor's?
- **Make a *to do list* including**
  - assignments;
  - reviewing difficult concepts;
  - joining study groups;
  - make appointments with a study pal, tutor, or the instructor.