



Studying History

Each subject you study in college will be a little different, and you may want to make some special considerations and adjust your study habits for each subject. Here are some tips for studying history.

- ④ Buy the required texts right away. If you can, get a clean copy so you can do your own underlining and highlighting without the distractions of someone else's.
- ④ Attend class regularly. If you must miss class, get the notes from a classmate, read them, and go to your instructor's office hours to reflect what you've learned from the notes and ensure that you understand what you missed.
- ④ Do the reading assignments before attending class.
- ④ Take notes on what you read. The Cornell Note Taking Method is suggested because they make great study guides later. Also, be sure to leave A LOT of white space in your notes so you can fill in the lecture notes around your textbook notes.
- ④ When your instructor assigns collateral readings, take only what is most important from them. Purchase your own copies of these books when you can since it can be difficult to get them from the library.
- ④ Reduce your studying to the reviewing of notes. Start this review the day a test is announced and continue steadily until the test day comes.
- ④ Get a strong visualization of the time period from pictures in books and historically based videos your instructor recommends.
- ④ Remember that history instructors use many approaches to teaching. What is important to one instructor may not be as important to another. Determine early in the semester what your instructor wants, what his or her approach to history is, and what he or she will emphasize.

Something to remember about History Texts

History Texts are works of the creative imagination. The author attempts to recreate the life, thoughts of, and events surrounding particular people during a particular time. The author may trace the development of ideas or events that have had significant effects on history. Each author of historical texts will choose the facts that reflect what she or he believed happened. The author establishes casual relationships between facts and adds her or his account of why events took place and what the consequences of it were. Because of this, an author is not a reporter.

What does this mean to you?

You must do careful readings of your history textbooks.

Question
Synthesize

Analyze
Evaluate

Relate
Discuss