

## Reading and Preparation Advice

LART602

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### Class Preparation

- In order to get the most out of your education, you should prepare carefully and thoroughly for class. What happens in class is the culmination of careful preparation. The more you prepare, the more you benefit from class; the less you prepare, the less you will benefit from what goes on when we meet.

### Reading Advice

- Read everything at least twice. Your first read-through should be relatively quick, with fewer pauses. Your goal is first to get an overall understanding of the reading. You should then read over the reading more carefully, taking notes as you proceed.
- Annotations: You should make note in the margins of your texts of primary ideas as you encounter them. This serves two purposes: enabling you later to find key points or passages, and facilitating and reinforcing your understanding as you proceed.
- Another useful technique: read the first and last paragraphs or sections of the reading, to gain an overall sense of the reading. Work your way towards the middle, alternating between earlier and later paragraphs/sections.
- Another: read the first sentence of each paragraph, or the first and last sentences of each paragraph, to gain a sense of the overall flow and structure of the reading.
- After completing a reading, re-state in writing the central idea/s of the reading. Make other notes as needed. Try for a one-sentence statement of the central thesis, supplemented by further statements as needed.

### A Model

- Days 1-3:
  - o Read study guide
  - o Read assigned readings
    - Pre-read all texts
    - Re-read all texts (taking notes)
- Days 4-5:
  - o Complete study guides
- Day 6:
  - o Read study-guide and other notes
  - o Re-read readings as needed
  - o Compose commentary, questions, etc. for class