Study Tips for Exam Preparation

- **Be sure to go to class!** Faculty sometimes change the date of tests or give information about the type of questions on a test, or even give reviews.

- **Check the syllabus to see what is on the test.** You may wish to ask the professor what type of questions will be on the test. Some professors keep copies of old tests in the library on reserve. Someone who has already taken the course and done well may be able to help you predict types of questions.

- **Begin early to review class notes and complete readings.** Review class notes to make sure they are complete. Concentrate rereading of the chapters on the material stressed in lecture notes. Make condensed study sheets for each chapter from the notes and the readings. Quiz yourself from the study sheets.

- **If you have an essay exam, practice writing essays.** Many students lose points on essays because they do not answer the question completely enough. Write a mini outline of what you would include in an essay: definition, cause and effect, etc. Pay specific attention to the words in the question. Compare and contrast essays are much more than simply identifying and defining the subjects.

- **Use study groups.** Reviewing material with classmates helps you to remember the material. During the test, you may recall what a classmate said or what you explained to a classmate. Prepare for the study group and ask a lot of questions to test your recall of the material.

- **Ask for help.** If you do not understand material from class, make an appt to meet with your professor. Be sure to ask specific questions, such as "I don't understand the difference between meiosis and mitosis", rather than "I don't understand cell development". Also, ask other classmates questions, maybe they have a question for you, too!

- **Study in a distraction-free place.** Don't drag out studying because you continually get interrupted. Plan what and where you are going to study and GET IT DONE! Plan some type of reward for accomplishing your goal.

- **Get to the test early.** Select a good seat and get comfortable before the test begins. Read and listen to the instructions carefully. A quick glance at the test and the points given for each part can give you an idea where to concentrate your time.

Your professor wants to know what you know and how well you can make inferences, draw conclusions, analyze and relate information to the concepts. To do well, you are expected to practice, drill, and plan your strategies the same way an athlete prepares for the “big game”.

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