Whole Student Learning Series
Study Tips: What To Do Before Lecture

Each day or night before your upcoming lectures, take 15-20 minutes per lecture to:

- **Skim** the recommended reading assignments and/or relevant course pack pages
  - Read through the learning objectives
  - Identify key terminology and concepts, look at diagrams and figures and read the captions
  - Familiarize yourself with the main ideas to develop a sense of the “big picture”
    - Don’t pay attention to details
  - Look for the organizational structure of the topic - how is the information presented?
    - Does it begin with an example or application that is followed by explanation?
    - Does the information build from the general to the specific?
    - Does it go from specific instances to general principles?
    - Does the information describe a process?
    - Is the presentation linear (sequentially ordered) or is it complex and interconnected?
  - Write down questions that come to mind
- If the upcoming lecture is related to the previous lecture, then quickly skim your notes from the previous lecture

**Why? What is the point of doing this?**
- The goal is to “prime the pump,” to prepare your brain to receive new information by creating a context for what you’ll be learning
  - To gain understanding of how the new info fits in with other topics you’ve learned
  - To get you thinking about what you might already know about the topic
  - To “pique your curiosity”
- Having this overview will facilitate your understanding of the lecture, help you keep up, and make it easier to take complete notes

If you have 4 lectures the next morning, this entire process should take no more than 60-80 minutes of your time. Remember, your goal is to simply prepare your brain to receive new information. You do not have to know any details at this point.