STUDY TIPS FOR SCIENCES

Before class:
⇒ Read assigned material before it is covered in class, or at least scan the textbook material BEFORE you come to class. Use your syllabus to know WHAT to read before the lecture.
⇒ You will get an overview of the material by reading the introductory and summary passages, section headings and diagrams. This will enable you to have a basic understanding of material in advance and be able to take notes more accurately and intelligently.

P.S: Reading the material before class does not guarantee that you will understand it, but you will have a general idea of what is going to be covered.

In class:
⇒ Get to class on time. Be alert and listen actively, intending to learn from the lecture.
⇒ Ask for clarifications whenever you don’t understand anything (you can also do this after class during your professor’s office hours or even from your fellow classmates).
⇒ Make sure to write down instructor’s explanatory remarks about a problem that is discussed in class. Note any concepts, rules, techniques or problems that the instructor emphasizes.
⇒ If you miss something in lecture or don’t understand, write it down and make sure to go back and review it. It is also important to pay attention to announcements and deadlines.

After class:
⇒ Summarize, review, and edit your notes. Re-read your notes the same day you had the class since the memory of the actual lecture is still in your mind. If possible, use the textbook to review and fill in some of the gaps.
⇒ You can even re-write the notes in your own condensed form and in your own words so that you state what you understand. You will be more likely to remember the information for a test, because you will also be studying while the material is still fresh.
⇒ Make sure you do the assigned homework. Practice makes perfect! Don’t fall behind. Make sure you keep track of yourself, and stay in pace with the class, to understand new material.
⇒ Make use of the resources that are available for you: for example, attend SI sessions, review sessions, and also make use of the IUSB LEARNING CENTER, which offers free tutoring services.

Special points of interest:
• Practice Makes Perfect
• Repetition is a key to remembering
• Never give up!
TECHNIQUES FOR STUDYING

**Create flash cards for terminology, symbols and concepts you must memorize:**

* On one side of the card write the term and concept; on the other side write the definition. Use these to quiz and test yourself, or ask someone to quiz you.
* Flashcards makes it easier to go through twenty or thirty terms in a few minutes. *Repetition is the key to remembering.*

**Sketch or draw:**

* To remember or identify diagrams, for example, parts of cells, anatomical features etc., sketch the items and draw arrows to the important parts you must learn and make a number of photocopies to practice labeling.
* Draw tables and fill in associated or related material to help remember the material.
* Pay attention to pictures, figures, tables, charts, graphs, etc., because sometimes you understand, and remember visuals easier than words. A picture is worth a thousand words.

**Teach:**

* Teach someone else or pretend to do so, or study with a partner or in groups—everyone has different strengths and weaknesses. Speaking out loud makes you hear yourself.

* Re-do drawings, write memory songs/poems/mnemonics (e.g., PMAT = Prophase, Meiosis, Anaphase, Telophase).

**Read the assigned materials with a highlighter, and mark terms:**

* You will engage more actively in reading the material. Also look at potential exam problems, e.g., exercises after the chapter. As you read, make a note of any unfamiliar words and look up the definitions to help you learn the vocabularies (e.g., in biology).

* If there the book has no glossary try a Google search, for example, “define: metamorphosis”.