COLOR-CODING TEXTBOOK READING

Reading your textbook can feel like you're receiving an overwhelming amount of information. To beat this feeling, break up the information within your text so that it is more manageable to study from. This handout is focused on colors, but different designs (e.g., single, dotted, double, wavy, and swirly lines) with one color will also work.

Create a key for the colors you have:

- Purple = MAIN IDEA - often found at the beginning of paragraphs and are statements.
- Pink = IMPORTANT - equations, important points, or information you want to remember.
- Yellow = NOTE - information that supports the main idea but you can ignore when skim reading.
- Orange = EXAMPLE - scenarios of the concepts that the section is reviewing, can be helpful when trying to memorize.
- Blue = DEFINITION - often in bold or italics, this information will be helpful when making flashcards.

After creating your key for however many categories is useful for you, check to see how long the chapter is and how much time you have to read it. Depending on the time you have available, read at the level of intensity that is most useful for you:

- Level 1 = skim reading the sections you're learning in class
- Level 2 = reading the sections you're learning in class
- Level 3 = skim reading the chapter
- Level 4 = reading the chapter
- Level 5 = taking notes on the chapter