COLOR-CODING TEXTBOOK READING

Textbook reading can often feel overwhelming. Breaking up information within the text can make reading and studying from textbooks more manageable. This handout focuses on a single implementation of this strategy using colors, but different approaches would also be effective (e.g. single, dotted, double, wavy, and swirly lines in a single color).

Create a key for chosen colors/patterns:

- **Purple = MAIN IDEA** - often statements found at the beginning of a paragraph
- **Pink = IMPORTANT** - equations, important points, or other information to remember
- **Yellow = NOTE** - information, supporting the main idea, that can be ignored when skimming
- **Orange = EXAMPLE** - scenarios of the concepts that the section is describing can be helpful when trying to memorize and/or remember concepts
- **Blue = DEFINITION** - often in bold or italics (would be very helpful when making flashcards)

After creating a key, preview the content and read at the level of intensity that is most appropriate given time constraints. Examples of intensity levels are given below, but can be modified to fit one's specific needs.

- **Level 1** = skim the sections currently being covered in class
- **Level 2** = fully read the sections currently being covered in class
- **Level 3** = skim the entire chapter currently being covered in class
- **Level 4** = fully read the entire chapter currently being covered in class
- **Level 5** = take notes on the entire chapter currently being covered in class